

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

## FIFTH SESSION

## Official Records



Saturday, 30 September 1950, at 10.45 a.m.

Lake Success, New York

## CONTENTS

Page

Advisory social welfare services: report of the Economic and Social Council (A/1355) ( <i>continued</i> ) .....	15
--	----

Chairman: Mr. G. J. VAN HEUVEN GOEDHART (Netherlands).

**Advisory social welfare services: report of the  
Economic and Social Council  
(A/1355) (*continued*)**

[Item 31]\*

1. The CHAIRMAN invited Mr. van Heuven, the representative of the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Social Affairs, to reply to questions raised by members of the Committee at the preceding meeting.
2. Mr. VAN HEUVEN (Secretariat) said that he would group his answers according to the subject matter.
3. In reply to the Egyptian representative, he noted that since the initiation of the advisory social welfare services programme the Secretary-General had always submitted lists of qualified experts to governments which had asked for expert advice, leaving the selection of individual experts to the governments themselves.
4. To the representatives of Australia, the United Kingdom, Brazil and the Union of South Africa, who had stressed the need for co-ordination of social activities and co-operation with the specialized agencies, he said that the Secretary-General had set up a working group on fellowships with precisely those ends in view. The results had been very satisfactory. The Australian representative had pointed out that the United Nations was granting fellowships in fields with which such specialized agencies as FAO and ILO were concerned. That had been done in order to assist the agencies, the first of which had no fellowship programme while the second had only limited funds for the purpose. When the agencies were able to provide fellowships in the fields in question, the United Nations would be able to use its funds to meet other requests.
5. The Australian and United Kingdom representatives had asked for supplementary information on demonstration projects. Experience had shown that

experts and fellowships had not been enough in the field of social rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. Better results would have been obtained in Poland, Austria and Czechoslovakia if it had been possible to launch demonstration projects as well. In connexion with such projects, the governments concerned would bear the costs of organization, while the United Nations would provide experts and only the strict amount of equipment necessary to demonstrate the latest techniques on the spot for a limited period. The countries concerned could take further advantage of the projects by sending students to learn the techniques used. Demonstration projects would be valuable in dealing with such questions as juvenile delinquency, probation and child guidance. Poland and Egypt had indicated interest in demonstration projects on social rehabilitation, and Lebanon in community projects.

6. The United Nations would merely demonstrate new methods, and would in no way assume the responsibility for social welfare that by right belonged to the national governments. While demonstration projects would be costly, the cost would be shared by the governments, the United Nations, and the appropriate specialized agencies. Furthermore, requests for demonstration equipment were granted only when they related to a general programme of social assistance. There could be no hard and fast rule regarding what part of the costs should be met by the requesting government and what part by the United Nations; each case would have to be decided on its own merits.

7. The representatives of Australia, Egypt, the United Kingdom and Mexico had wanted further information on technical publications. Three kinds of publications on social welfare services were provided: standard technical publications; the principal technical periodicals; and special studies prepared by the United Nations. The purpose of the service was to disseminate, at the request of governments, the best available technical information to governmental or non-governmental organizations concerned with the improvement of a

\* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly agenda.

country's social welfare services. It should be noted that both the Social Commission and the Economic and Social Council had recommended that the service should be not merely maintained but expanded,<sup>1</sup> and that under the revised text of resolution 58 (I) (A/1355), technical publications would be made available to many more countries than had been possible under the original resolution. The fields covered would be those to which the Social Commission had given priority in its general programme of work, such as family and child welfare, social rehabilitation and social defence. The distribution of technical publications was frequently linked with other services such as the fellowship programme and seminars.

8. The Egyptian representative's suggestion that technical publications should be provided in all the official languages, and in others as well, would unfortunately entail great expenditure; such a course could be considered only in exceptional cases. The Mexican representative's suggestion that the Secretariat should try new techniques, such as collaboration with the Press, would be given most careful consideration.

9. The Australian representative had wondered whether the expense entailed in producing films was justified. The Secretariat had received requests for films from many governments, particularly those of countries where visual education was the most effective technique used. When films on a particular subject were not available and governments offered to share in the costs of production, the Secretariat considered production eminently justified. It had already produced several such films.

10. The reason six experts were being sent to the national conference on the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency to be held in Italy in November 1950 was that the Italian Government, which was to bear all the costs, had asked for experts on each aspect of the technical and scientific disciplines involved, to direct and guide the conference. The Italian Minister of Justice had attended the seminar held at Paris in 1949.

11. The Indian representative had pointed out the need for regional centres. The Secretariat was fully aware of that need, and had already set up one regional office in Europe, another in the Far East, and a nucleus in Latin America; yet another was contemplated for the Near East. They were meant to be dynamic centres, which would help in implementing the programme; the Secretariat entirely agreed that direct assistance to governments in the social field was most effective if integrated with the cultural pattern and social needs of a given region.

12. The CHAIRMAN invited Mr. Martínez Cabañas, Deputy Director of the Technical Assistance Administration, to address the Committee on the administrative and organizational aspects of the programme.

13. Mr. MARTINEZ CABAÑAS (Secretariat) recalled that the Technical Assistance Administration had been created only a short time before—on 1 August 1950—and was still in the process of organization. He hoped, however, to be able to submit full administrative

and budgetary details to the Fifth Committee before the end of the session.

14. The Technical Assistance Administration was responsible for the operation of the programmes sanctioned by General Assembly resolutions 58 (I), 200 (III), 246 (III) and 305 (IV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 222 (IX); those were the sources of its authority. Personnel and funds had been transferred to it from the Department of Social Affairs and the Department of Economic Affairs and the Technical Assistance Administration was now alone responsible for the operation of programmes which had been previously administered by several departments, such as the organization and composition of missions, lending individual experts to governments, fellowship and scholarship programmes, seminars, and demonstration projects. It was responsible directly to the Secretary-General.

15. The Department of Economic Affairs and the Department of Social Affairs would still be responsible for the preparation of studies needed for technical assistance purposes, and would be consulted by the Technical Assistance Administration on all policy matters relating to economic development, public administration and social welfare. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services would be responsible for the control of the Technical Assistance Administration's special funds and the administration of its personnel.

16. Although the Administration had been in operation for only two months, it had taken definite steps to assure co-ordination; thus, it had transmitted to governments a single description of the entire scholarship and fellowship programme for 1951, embracing the three fields of economic development, social welfare, and public administration. That programme would be operated by a single unit. Another unit would take charge of all operations connected with missions and expert advice in all three fields. A third would handle all technical publications, films, seminars and conferences. A special unit, composed of the best experts available in the three fields, would be set up to determine policy, to screen all requests for assistance, and to evaluate the results of the various programmes.

17. It was as yet impossible to tell whether the merger of the various Secretariat services would result in savings, particularly as the expanded programmes of technical assistance was to be operated by the same personnel, and as it had been as yet impossible to draw on the special account for that programme because contributions to it in convertible currency were just coming in.

18. He assured the Committee that all projects connected with social welfare activities were developed in full consultation with the Technical Assistance Board and with the substantive departments. Co-ordination with the specialized agencies was effected both by means of day-to-day consultation on routine matters and by discussion at meetings of the Board. The Technical Assistance Administration was collaborating with ILO, WHO and UNESCO on certain specific projects, and helped specialized agencies to screen requests for fellowships.

19. The CHAIRMAN remarked that it would be for

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 3* and resolution 312 (XI).

the Fifth Committee to go into the administrative aspects of the subject in greater detail.

20. Mr. CAÑAS FLORES (Chile) felt that, in the light of the explanations given by Mr. van Heuven and Mr. Martínez Cabañas, the Committee might well adopt the draft revised resolution unanimously without further debate.

21. The Chilean delegation could not, however, forgo a few brief comments on the matter, since its head, Mr. Santa Cruz, had been President of the Economic and Social Council during the session when it had prepared the revised text, and since the subject matter of the resolution was of particular concern to Chile.

22. At the 273rd meeting, the United Kingdom representative had criticized the advisory social welfare services programme, chiefly on the grounds of cost, in line with the position taken on that subject by the United Kingdom delegation since 1948. While the major Powers, which had little need of such services, might not fully appreciate their value, the smaller nations were fully aware that they filled a crying need. His country's social legislation was one of the most advanced in the world; Chilean social welfare experts were in demand in other Latin American countries; and Chile was therefore in a position to appreciate the work done by the United Nations in the field of social welfare.

23. The financial aspect, as the Chairman had quite rightly remarked, was for the Fifth Committee to consider; moreover, the sum involved was pathetically small when compared with the vast sums spent on armament, at best a negative means of defending modern civilization. The programme in question, on the other hand, provided a positive way of achieving national and international unity by aiding children to face a complex world and by raising the dignity of the human person. With such an end in view, the small sums involved were hardly worth the strong criticism that had been raised. It was, moreover, a practical service which had not been furnished by the League of Nations.

24. The Chilean delegation therefore warmly supported the draft revised resolution and felt that the services for which it provided should be expanded, to the benefit of the under-developed areas and of all mankind, and to the greater glory of the United Nations.

25. Mr. URIBE CUALLA (Colombia) stated that his delegation strongly supported the draft revised resolution.

26. He noted in passing that it was a pleasure to see a number of women representatives on the Third Committee, especially since that Committee dealt with many matters of particular interest to women, such as community, family, and child welfare.

27. He fully agreed with the Chilean representative's remarks concerning the admirable work done by Chile in the field of social welfare; but he could not agree that the United Kingdom representative's comments had been intended as adverse criticism. The United Kingdom and Australian representatives had both raised certain questions in a spirit of helpfulness, being anxious that the proposed advisory social welfare ser-

vices programme should operate as efficiently as possible.

28. At the 271st meeting he had suggested that item 7 of the Committee's agenda (A/C.3/531) should be given a higher place in the agenda. He wished to explain that he had not done so with any intention of offending any Member of the United Nations, and that his delegation wished to co-operate with all others in a spirit of amity and understanding. He had not wished to raise political questions in a social committee although all social questions had to be considered in connexion with their political background.

29. In that connexion, he noted that he had been obliged to send a corrigendum to the provisional summary record of that 271st meeting, because his remarks had not been adequately covered. The speeches of representatives of nations large and small should be reported with equal objectivity.

30. He then recalled the principles of the United Nations embodied in the Preamble of the Charter, and read the arguments in favour of ratifying the Charter which he had presented to the Colombian Senate in 1945 (*Anales del Congreso*, 31 August 1945, p. 341).

31. Colombia was as ready as ever to fight for the ideals of the United Nations and to collaborate with other Member States for the achievement of such noble ends as international peace and security, democracy and equality, and the substitution of the force of the law for the law of force.

32. The CHAIRMAN remarked that he had not wished to interrupt the Colombian representative, but hoped that succeeding speakers would confine themselves strictly to the item under discussion.

33. Mr. VLAHOVIC (Yugoslavia) thought that the draft revised resolution properly emphasized positive aspects of the problem and correctly assumed that concrete results could be achieved even with limited means. It also reflected the fact that only a first step was being taken and that much remained to be done.

34. The debate had shown that there was basic agreement on the draft revised resolution in general. Some appeared to fear too broad an interpretation, resulting in unwarranted additional expenditures. Such a fear did not seem to be justified. The budget for the contemplated programme was modest enough. Basically, the scope of each national social welfare service programme must be determined by each individual government; the function of the United Nations in that field was to help governments to carry out their own programmes. Yugoslavia, for example, was faced with the problem of the rehabilitation of 500,000 war invalids, and the experience of other countries in that field might be of real help to the Yugoslav Government. In such cases the revised resolution could be most valuable.

35. Yugoslavia had benefited from the advisory social welfare services of the United Nations in the past; some thirty Yugoslav citizens, for example, who had received United Nations fellowships and scholarships the previous year, were already aiding their country by practising what they had learned under the programme.

36. The receiving countries were doing their part, and it would not be wise to increase the financial bur-

dens which they were already bearing. Nor should an attempt be made to finance the expanded social welfare services by making deductions from funds set aside for other social activities of the United Nations. It might perhaps be feasible to explore the possibility of additional fellowship grants outside the scope of the advisory social welfare services programme. It might be useful to have the comments of persons holding fellowship and scholarship grants, and to have reports from receiving countries on the utility of such grants, in order to explore future possibilities more fully.

37. The draft revised resolution itself was acceptable; the question was how it would be implemented. If it was implemented wisely, and in a spirit of co-operation, positive results could undoubtedly be achieved.

38. Mr. VOS (Belgium) noted that the consensus of opinion in the Committee favoured the draft revised resolution. His delegation would also vote for it.

39. The advisory social welfare service activities of the United Nations should be encouraged. They were educational and provided a means of exchanging persons and ideas and so could contribute to greater international understanding. Moreover, they were most practical and capable of yielding immediate results.

40. The United Nations had been well advised to create advisory social welfare services, which undoubtedly met a real and pressing need. Belgium had profited from the studies carried out abroad by Belgian social welfare specialists who had received United Nations fellowships. Even the most advanced countries could still learn something from the experience of other countries in the social sphere.

41. Belgium had previously emphasized that advisory social welfare services must not be limited to charity towards the handicapped or the poor, but must encompass all activities aimed at the building of a better social order. They must be preventive rather than merely remedial: in that lay their constructive nature. The revised resolution followed a constructive road.

42. He was glad to note that the revised resolution made it possible to award fellowships not only to government officials, but also to social workers in the private sector, and not only to trained specialists but also to duly qualified persons in countries still lacking an official social welfare service. The revised resolution happily reconciled two points of view—the view that it was necessary to develop governmental social welfare services in certain countries and the view which favoured private initiative. He thought that governments might usefully encourage such initiative wherever possible.

43. The budget of the United Nations for advisory social welfare service activities was, and should be, limited; and it should not be too widely dispersed. Thus it seemed to his delegation that the services of experts and fellowship grants for advanced training should have priority over such matters as scholarship grants for basic training, seminars, and supply of equipment, which entailed large administrative overheads.

44. He agreed with the Australian representative's remarks regarding the need of a limitative criterion for advisory social welfare services and for avoiding duplication with the specialized agencies and the technical assistance programme. Since his Government partici-

pated financially in the work of a number of international agencies, it had a direct interest in their judicious use of their funds. He was glad that the Secretary-General was concerned with the problem of co-ordination, as was shown by the statements of Mr. van Heuven and Mr. Martínez Cabañas.

45. He reserved the position of his delegation regarding the possibility of increasing the funds for the project under discussion. He also supported the viewpoint of the United States delegation regarding the feasibility of increasing the funds allocated to the programme of advisory social welfare services possibly by drawing upon the separate account of the expanded technical assistance programme.

46. With those reservations, the Belgian delegation would vote for the draft revised resolution.

47. Mrs. BEGTRUP (Denmark) stated that her delegation also favoured the draft revised resolution. It dealt with a matter in which the people of her country were deeply interested.

48. Concerning part A, paragraph 1, she stressed the necessity of arranging for the advisory social welfare services to be planned in close co-operation with the specialized agencies and taking into account the technical assistance programme, in order to avoid a duplication which could diminish confidence in the United Nations and burden the administrative machinery of its Members.

49. Regarding part A, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph (f), she said that her delegation had been most interested in the report on the seminar in the Middle East.<sup>2</sup> Such seminars would seem to be of great value, because local patterns of life were constantly taken into consideration, and the merits and difficulties of new methods could be discussed in the presence of the very authorities which must be convinced of their advantages.

50. Her delegation too desired economical administration of the services; the receiving countries should, where possible, assume a share of the expenses; and fellowship holders should not invariably go to hard-currency countries when equivalent training facilities were available elsewhere. But it was unreasonable to expect an expansion of the whole programme without a consequent increase in financial requirements. She had no doubt that, once they were properly informed of the constructive possibilities of that programme of mutual aid, the people of Member countries would not object to money being spent on it. It might be well for the Fifth Committee to bear that point in mind when examining the budgetary aspects of the matter, and the Third Committee itself should not overlook it.

51. There was at that time in Denmark an international group of students of social welfare activities, sent there under the auspices of the European Office of the United Nations. She hoped they would find their studies in Denmark worth-while and was sure that the Danish people and authorities welcomed the opportunity thus afforded them of co-operating in the work of the United Nations.

52. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) stated that the co-operation shown by the United Na-

<sup>2</sup> See document E/CN.5/175/Rev.1 (United Nations Publications, Sales No. 1950.IV.8).

tions in the field of social welfare ever since the adoption of resolution 58 (I) had been truly outstanding. Many European, Middle and Far Eastern, and Latin American countries had benefited from the assistance the United Nations offered them in such matters. Much of course remained to be done, and that was why the Economic and Social Council was proposing the revised text of resolution 58 (I) which the Committee had before it. It was to be hoped that approval of the revised resolution would lead to more secure and lasting United Nations activities and programmes in that sphere.

53. She supported the United States and other representatives who had stressed the importance of extending positive and effective aid to Korea to help alleviate the suffering caused by the war. She also wished to emphasize the contribution which the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, with their vast experience, could make.

54. The Dominican Republic had been glad to avail itself of the opportunities offered under resolution 58 (I) in respect of the training of social welfare personnel and had just submitted a list of candidates to the Secretariat, in the hope that their studies would benefit their country, just as the Dominican Republic had, in connexion with other aspects of social problems, always been willing to give its assistance when called upon to do so by various United Nations organs.

55. She would vote for the draft revised resolution.

56. Mr. PEREZ PEROZO (Venezuela) noted that, in spite of its outstanding importance, the United Nations' efforts in the social domain had gone all but unnoticed by world public opinion. They did not make the headlines. Undoubtedly that was due to the grave political problems arising out of the Second World War. The sole exception was that of the technical assistance programme, which had attracted wide attention, largely because it had international political implications, having been point four of an historic speech by President Truman.

57. Venezuela, like other countries, was most interested in the matter under consideration. As a member of the Economic and Social Council it had closely followed the work of revising and expanding resolution 58 (I) in the preceding three years. Particular appreciation was due to the Social Commission, which had formulated the basic recommendations for the Council.

58. His delegation had been pleased to note that the General Assembly had authorized the Secretary-General to place the advisory social welfare services of the United Nations on a continuing basis. It was equally pleased with the proposed expansion of them as outlined in the draft revised resolution.

59. While fully accepting the principle that receiving countries should, within the limits of possibility, bear part of the cost of the services afforded them, he did not think that any country should be denied such services merely because of inability to participate financially. In other words, the principle of co-operative participation should be applied with a certain flexibility, for the poorer and less developed countries were among those most urgently in need of United Nations advisory social welfare services. He hoped the Secretary-General would examine each case on its own merits.

60. As the Secretary-General had noted in his report (A/1355), requests for advisory services had been steadily increasing ever since the adoption of resolution 58 (I); annex II to the report was eloquent proof of the scope and variety of such requests.

61. Co-ordination should now have been provided for as a result both of the work done by the Co-ordination Committee of the Economic and Social Council and of the establishment of the Executive Office of the Technical Assistance Administration. The statements of Mr. van Heuven and Mr. Martínez Cabañas also offered reassurance on that point.

62. He did not believe that fellowship and scholarship requirements should be narrowly interpreted in the case of candidates from extremely under-developed regions. A list of such requirements appeared in annex III of the report of the Social Commission (sixth session).<sup>3</sup> He had reason to believe that there were still areas so backward that those requirements could not be met by persons living there. He recalled that at the eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council, in Geneva, the United Kingdom representative had declared that several indigenous fellowship candidates from the former Italian colonies of Cyrenaica and Tripolitania had been rejected because of inadequate education. She had added that in such cases the requirements should be interpreted liberally, rather than strictly, as an exception to the general rule.

63. His delegation thought that regional seminars for the consideration of social welfare problems were most beneficial. Adequate publicity should, however, be given to the results achieved. He knew of two such seminars held under United Nations auspices during the previous three years, one at Medellín, Colombia, the other in Uruguay. Neighbouring countries had participated in both, but it should be borne in mind that problems similar to those dealt with at the two seminars also confronted other parts of the world which would therefore benefit from learning of the results achieved. Seminars should not be purely regional, but should also be for the benefit of countries with analogous problems. In December 1947 a small group of experts had met at Caracas, Venezuela, under the advisory social welfare services programme, and with the support of the Secretary-General, to discuss tropical housing in humid regions. The results might benefit certain countries in Asia and Africa facing similar problems. Yet he did not know whether they had ever been communicated to any such countries.

64. His delegation would vote for the draft revised resolution.

65. Mr. CABADA (Peru) emphasized that the question of the advisory social welfare services had been very thoroughly considered by the Social Commission, the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council and the Council itself, in which fifteen countries had unanimously voted in favour of resolution 312 (XI). The Third Committee had, therefore, ample data upon which to base its conclusions. The advisory functions of the services was one of the most effective activities of the United Nations because it embraced fields in which it was particularly needed. Almost all countries, how-

<sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 3.*

ever small, had developed social welfare services to some extent even before the United Nations had come into being. What they had needed, however, was the exchange of ideas and experiences in order to perfect their own systems. That need was being met by the advisory social welfare services of the United Nations.

66. The question of financial implications was relatively minor. The Third Committee could be sure that the Secretary-General, with his great experience in providing that service and in preparing budget estimates, had drawn up reliable and conservative estimates; the Fifth Committee would very probably be willing to support the decisions of the Third Committee in that respect.

67. Some delegations had stated that each requesting government ought to participate financially to the maximum possible extent. He agreed with the representative of Mexico that precisely those countries which requested the services most would be those with the least ability to pay their cost. It should be axiomatic in international co-operation that the more highly developed countries should contribute in order that the under-developed countries should obtain the assistance they required.

68. Mr. VAZQUEZ (Uruguay) said that his country, which had a very advanced system of social welfare services, believed that the question of the advisory social welfare services of the United Nations warranted the closest attention, because one of the principal aims of that Organization was to raise living standards, an achievement which in itself would greatly diminish the violence of international friction.

69. The concrete problem in connexion with the advisory social welfare services was that of their organization. That organization should be carefully limited to purposes of international co-operation. Sufficient care should be taken to see that the use of the advisory social welfare services was confined strictly to the supplementing of the existing national welfare services. The United Nations could co-ordinate its work with that of the national services, but should not intervene in their administration.

70. Turning to the draft revised resolution (A/1355, annex I), he noted that it provided for three aspects of the services: an executive organ for the services, a definition of their scope, and a directive on the methods to be employed. The Secretary-General was authorized to work, where appropriate, with the co-operation of the specialized agencies and in consultation with non-governmental organizations having consultative status. Care should be taken that the co-ordinating services of the Secretariat should not be overburdened in that connexion, but the advantages of continuous collaboration with the specialized agencies were manifest. All the technical services referred to in part A, paragraph 1, were likely to be useful, but specific standards should be laid down for the training and choice of experts. It might be useful, also, to ask all Member States for a list of qualified experts. The experts might be chosen on the basis of professional qualifications or competitive examinations. That system might be applied also to the choice of fellows, due account being taken of the character of the education systems in the areas concerned. The regular exchange of all official documents on the development of social welfare services would be useful. The resolution did not lay down a fully prepared general

plan for the services; experience would dictate the future distribution of services, the types required and the criteria according to which they should be provided.

71. It must be emphasized that the services were not to be regarded as gifts, but as a fertile exchange of experiences, from which all parties had something to gain. By giving the more backward countries the benefit of experience which they had acquired, often at great cost, the more highly developed countries could save those countries untold suffering. The type of services requested should be chosen by the governments, but in order to avoid inequities there should be some kind of board of review. The board should assist the Secretary-General in deciding the amount of services.

72. He could not support the latter part of part B, paragraph 3. The services should be supplementary to the established national services and the requesting governments should be given latitude with regard to the extent of their participation.

73. The advisory social welfare services had made considerable progress and had expanded considerably. He therefore reiterated the request, which he had made at the previous session, that a more specific plan of organization should be prepared.

74. With those reservations, the Uruguayan delegation would support the draft revised resolution.

75. Mr. KOUSSOFF (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) observed that the increasing number of requests received, and the extension of the scope of the services, induced his delegation to maintain the support it had given to the proposal to place them on a continuing basis.

76. In implementing the resolution, however, the Secretary-General should be guided by the principle that the expenses should be met by the requesting countries; the development of their social welfare services should be a material as well as a moral responsibility on the part of governments, and only if they contributed fully to the United Nations advisory services would their interest be aroused and sustained. Although his delegation did not object to the extension of the services, particularly with due regard to the needs of the under-developed countries, it did object to any increase in the appropriation. Countries were well able to pay for the services. That they should be seeking such funds from the United Nations five years after the end of the Second World War was somewhat curious.

77. Mr. DAVIN (New Zealand) was glad to associate himself with the general opinion in favour of the revised resolution, which brought General Assembly resolution 58 (I) up to date.

78. He welcomed the emphasis on the under-developed countries in part B, paragraph 3. The statements of Mr. van Heuven and Mr. Martínez Cabañas had convinced him that everything possible would be done to obtain participation by requesting countries, and to achieve co-operation with the specialized agencies.

79. With regard to the financial implications, he agreed with the Australian representative that the Third Committee had no authority to recommend an increase in the appropriation, but that problem ought to be solved by the Fifth Committee, which might examine Mr. Martínez Cabañas' indication that part at

least of the increase could be met out of the special account for technical assistance.

80. Mr. LESAGE (Canada) said that his delegation had found the reports of the Secretary-General and the reports from the governments concerned most encouraging. He would support the draft revised resolution, with only one reservation: he agreed with the opinion of the representative of the United Kingdom (273rd meeting) that the allocation of funds should not be increased. The Third Committee must be careful not to commit the Fifth Committee.

81. He appealed for caution on three specific points. First, the receiving country must give assurances that it would make proper use of the assistance in continuing to improve its own social welfare system. Secondly, since the services were financed out of the budget of the United Nations, every effort should be made to see that governments did not attempt to use such funds to finance activities which were primarily and traditionally a matter for national financing. Thirdly, since the services were to be closely co-ordinated with both the regular and the expanded technical assistance programme, every effort should be made to obviate duplication. He felt that the assurances to that effect given by the representatives of the Secretary-General would be efficiently implemented and he had been impressed by the reply on the matter of the fellowships, raised by the Australian representative, with regard to the relationship between fellowships in social and in economic fields.

82. He wished to ask the Secretariat what was the basis for the remuneration of social experts and whether it was uniform.

83. Mr. MARTINEZ CABAÑAS (Secretariat) replied that the basis of remuneration had been discussed at length by the Technical Assistance Board, which had decided upon a uniform basis for the United Nations and for all the specialized agencies concerned.

84. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) stated that her delegation would support the revised resolution. She could not agree with those who appeared to believe it possible to extend the scope of the services without increasing expenditure. Even after administrative streamlining and the elimination of any possible duplication, it was inevitable that expenditure on those services would expand, especially since those services, which had at first covered only the war-devastated countries, had expanded to take in the whole world.

85. With regard to the suggestion made by some delegations that any increase in expenditure should be borne by the receiving countries, she admitted that receiving countries should participate as far as they could. She particularly welcomed the Mexican suggestion that receiving countries should participate in the services. But the services must not be denied to the very countries which needed them most, merely because those countries were unable to share the expenses.

86. While admitting that the advisory social welfare services were linked to the technical assistance programme in certain respects, her delegation could not agree to the use of funds set aside for technical assistance to defray expenses of the advisory social welfare services. Savings must perhaps be effected in connexion

with other United Nations activities, such as public information, should that prove necessary. Specifically, it might be possible to use some funds of the public information services to finance seminars, which provided an excellent means of disseminating constructive news about the United Nations, as well as technical publications. To be of real value to the countries of the Middle East, such publications should be translated into Arabic, as the Egyptian delegation had suggested (273rd meeting).

87. When the huge national defence budgets of most countries were borne in mind, the opposition of certain representatives to a possible increase of \$US 158,000 seemed to her to be due to other causes, namely to the desire to set a "ceiling" figure as quickly as possible and to the fear that the United Nations might assume what should be national responsibilities. The figure of \$US 768,000 to be divided among the world seemed to her a very low "ceiling". The fear that the United Nations might assume national responsibilities with such a small budget was far-fetched, if it was remembered that Iraq alone had, out of its scarce dollars, granted 450 scholarships and fellowships for the United States, without mentioning students sent to other countries.

88. In view of the contribution which under-developed countries had made to the higher living standards of the industrially developed countries, she would have no hesitation in asking for their material aid. Iraq was supporting the advisory social welfare services programme, however, not in anticipation of material benefits for itself, but primarily because the programme implied world-wide recognition of world-wide social ills and of the need for collective defence against them.

89. In spite of its small scale, the programme outlined in the revised resolution was a magnificent token; to whittle down its financial scope would be to deprive it of that value. The Byelorussian representative appeared to misconstrue the programme; otherwise she did not think that he would have suggested that additional expenses should be borne entirely by the receiving countries.

90. With regard to the statement which the United States representative had made about Korea, Mrs. Afnan thought that Korea presented an emergency problem which should be dealt with as such. She believed that it ought to be approached separately from the advisory social welfare services programme, since the latter was envisaged as a long-range, permanent activity.

91. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) wished to express his Government's gratitude to the Secretariat for its work in connexion with the seminar to be held at Cairo in November, and he was particularly glad that an expert with wide knowledge of Middle Eastern problems, Sir Raphael Cilento, would direct it. The seminar would not have been possible without the co-ordinating machinery of the Arab League. In that connexion, he wished to dispel a widespread misapprehension. The Arab League was a regional rather than a purely political organization; under its charter its economic, social and cultural co-ordinating activities were important, and co-ordination in social welfare would be increasingly developed in the near future.



92. He supported the draft revised resolution, but made certain reservations. Saudi Arabia was not yet able to apply for scholarships, but was taking the requisite steps. His country had greatly benefited by the few films it had received, but he suggested that subtitles might be added in Arabic. Technical publications were of little value to his country unless translated into Arabic; should that be too expensive, perhaps abridgments could be issued in Arabic.

93. The financial implications were for the Fifth Committee to deal with; but he must draw attention to the fact that excessive thriftiness might well prove to be false economy in view of the broader implications of the social services in the maintenance of peace and security.

94. Mr. PANYUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation would continue to support the furnishing of the advisory social welfare services on a continuing basis. That view had been reinforced by the increased number of requests received from the under-developed countries. His delegation would, however, be compelled to abstain from voting for the draft revised resolution, because it could not agree to the contemplated increase in expenditure. It appeared that the sums appropriated for 1950 would, with proper administration, be fully adequate for developing a slightly more expanded programme of services to the under-developed countries in 1951.

95. Mr. AZKOUL (Lebanon) expressed his country's appreciation of the advisory social welfare services.

96. Part B, paragraph 3, of the revised resolution might lead to some confusion. While he welcomed the emphasis on the under-developed countries, he thought that the provision that the requesting countries would be expected to participate financially to the maximum possible extent was inadvisable. The services were still in an experimental stage and many under-developed countries did not fully understand them. It was necessary to prove their usefulness, in order to convince parliamentary and public opinion. The fact that countries were being asked to contribute in advance to a programme of which they had no real knowledge might act as a deterrent. Undoubtedly, the object was that all countries would eventually cover the costs of social welfare services in full, but it might be better to reach that stage by giving the greatest possible number of countries the experience which would stimulate their continuing and increasing interest in the services.

97. He therefore proposed that the last part of part B, paragraph 3, should be amended to read:

“... that each requesting government shall be expected to cover, within the limits of its ability, a part of the financing of the services provided to it...”<sup>4</sup>

98. Mr. ROY (Haiti) wholeheartedly supported the draft revised resolution. Haiti had greatly benefited from three scholarships it had received; but he regretted that his country had not yet been able to afford the cost of experts.

99. He would also support the Lebanese amendment.

100. Mr. ALTMAN (Poland) said that his delegation would maintain its support of the advisory social

welfare services placed on a continuing basis. He would, however, abstain from voting on the draft revised resolution because he thought that the proposed increase in the budget was not justified.

101. Since the scope of the services had been extended from the war-devastated countries to cover all countries, the recipient countries should meet the costs. That principle should be stressed. Countries should pay for their own social welfare services; his own for example had increased the budget for such services in 1950 by 32 per cent over the budget for 1949, mainly for training social workers and for rehabilitating the physically handicapped.

102. Furthermore, the revised resolution laid insufficient stress upon the provision that the governments should be consulted when the experts were chosen.

103. Mr. KAYSER (France) stated that he would vote for the draft revised resolution. His delegation had raised some questions on certain points which had not seemed sufficiently clear to it when the text was being drafted by the Economic and Social Council.<sup>5</sup> The replies it had received to its questions had been satisfactory. The new text was a definite improvement on the text of resolution 58 (I), making it possible, as it did, to come closer to the balance which was to be desired between the economic and the social aspects of the work of the Council.

104. Obviously, difficulties would arise in practice, and it was well that the machinery contemplated was not too automatic; the programme would have to be flexible, and applied in an appropriate way in each individual case in order to cover the varying conditions in various countries.

105. The advisory social welfare services were doing good work, though little was heard of it. The peoples concerned must be told exactly what results were obtained. The United States representative had noted (273rd meeting) that those activities were not spectacular; they need not be spectacular, but they must be known. He therefore wondered whether the figures and necessarily administrative headings in the Secretary-General's reports could capture people's imagination as they should.

106. He suggested that in future an annex might be prepared explaining in concrete detail what had been done. The annex could be published not only in the official languages, but in many others.

107. The question of liaison with the governments and specialized agencies was important: the text of the resolution and the replies of the Secretariat to questions asked both in the Economic and Social Council and in the Third Committee gave reason for hope that the co-ordination would be efficient. The Secretariat was performing concrete and constructive work and deserved unanimous support. Such support had been expressed by most members of the Committee, but with reservations in regard to the administrative and financial implications. The fear of duplication might be exaggerated until it actually became a brake on the Secretariat's activities. But the fear of leaving gaps in the vast domain of social problems to be settled was at least as great as the fear of duplication. It was to

<sup>4</sup> Subsequently issued as document A/C.3/L.42.

<sup>5</sup> See document E/AC.7/SR.130.



be hoped, therefore, that the Secretariat would take equal care to see that there were no gaps and omissions in the programme.

108. He could not support the reservations of the Byelorussian delegation for not all countries were in a position to pay for the services. Such a situation would obviously be the ideal and was the ultimate objective. But if all countries were able to undertake such activities with their own resources, they would not have to call upon the United Nations for assistance. The United Nations services should supplement those national services which could and should be performed by the governments. International co-operation demanded that aid should be given to every State which,

having done its best on a national scale, needed international assistance in working out its social programme.

109. As evidence of their warm support of that advisory service, and in the name of international solidarity, he hoped the Committee would vote unanimously for the draft revised resolution.

110. Mr. BARODY (Saudi Arabia) moved the adjournment of the meeting.

*The motion was adopted by 18 votes to 16.*

111. The CHAIRMAN stated that the list of speakers was closed.

The meeting rose at 2.10 p.m.