

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

FIFTH SESSION

Official Records



THIRD COMMITTEE 278th

MEETING

Friday, 6 October 1950, at 10.45 a.m.

Lake Success, New York

C O N T E N T S

	<i>Page</i>
Chapters V, VI, and VII of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/1345) (<i>continued</i>)	43
Long-range activities for children. United Nations International Children's Endowment Fund (A/1411) (<i>continued</i>)	46

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

Chapters V, VI and VII of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/1345) (*continued*)

[Item 12]*

HAITIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE NEXT SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES (A/C.3/L.45)

1. Mr. ROY (Haiti) submitted his delegation's draft resolution (A/C.3/L.45). It resembled, in aim, the Egyptian draft resolution concerning the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press, which had already been adopted by the Committee (277th meeting): it asked the Economic and Social Council to reconsider its decision not to convene before 1952 any session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

2. The French representative's criticisms of the Egyptian draft resolution could not apply to the Haitian proposal, which made allowance for the considerations advanced at the 277th meeting. After stressing both the importance of the studies to be carried out by the Sub-Commission and the fact that its terms of reference had been extended for three years by the Commission on Human Rights on 16 May 1949, the draft resolution pointed out that the Sub-Commission's last session had been held in January 1950 and if it did not have a session in 1951, it would not have met for more than two years.

3. The French and United Kingdom experts on the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Mr. Spanien and Miss Monroe, had already emphasized that the failure to

hold a session of the Sub-Commission in 1948 had had a disastrous effect on its work.

4. The reports of the Sub-Commission itself, of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Economic and Social Council sufficed to show the number and the extent of the studies entrusted to the Sub-Commission. They included the question of the classification of minorities—which was so important that the Sub-Commission had decided that it was necessary to refer it to a committee of three members which would meet in the interval between the sessions—and a study of the measures to be taken to ensure the protection of minorities by means of an international agreement. To be able to solve the latter problem the Sub-Commission had to receive information on minorities from States, Members and non-members of the United Nations, and would have to examine that information before agreeing on appropriate recommendations. That task alone would, in his opinion, justify the request contained in the Haitian draft resolution.

5. Mr. ROGERS (United Kingdom) said that the remark just made by the Haitian representative regarding the United Kingdom expert on the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities might convey a false impression of the attitude of the United Kingdom delegation towards the question. It was hardly necessary to stress the great importance that his delegation attached to the work of the Sub-Commission. It could therefore readily sympathize with the desire of the Haitian representative to contribute to the greatest possible extent to that work while he was a member of the Sub-Commission. None the less, the United Kingdom delegation believed that the best interests of the Sub-Commission and of its work would not be served by holding a session in 1951. The Sub-Commission's work was both important and

* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly agenda.

extremely complex, as shown by the report of its last session and the resolutions it adopted. The work of the Sub-Commission should be done very thoroughly; the question of who should do it was, on the whole, less important. It was true that the Human Rights Commission had extended for a further three years the term of office of the members of the Sub-Commission. That did not mean, however, that the Sub-Commission would necessarily conclude its work in 1952.

6. The Economic and Social Council, at its eleventh session, had adopted, on the recommendation of the Commissioner on Human Rights, its resolution 303 F (XI) stressing the need for thorough and precise information relating to the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities requesting the Secretary-General to invite governments, Members and non-members of the United Nations, to furnish him with certain information and "in particular, such information as could serve as a basis for defining the term 'minorities'". The Secretary-General had accordingly, about a week previously, sent all governments a request for information. As the United States representative had already pointed out, governments usually moved slowly and it would be unrealistic to expect that most of them could supply promptly the information requested. In the present case that was all the less probable inasmuch as no time limit had been fixed for transmitting the information. Furthermore, when the information had reached the Secretary-General, it would have to be collated and analysed and then sent to the members of the Sub-Commission for study. All that would take time and it would be wrong to expect the Sub-Commission to study that information before it had had time to digest it.

7. He felt sure, therefore, that the Economic and Social Council's decision not to convene a session of the Sub-Commission until 1952 was a wise one.

8. Mr. Rogers added that the transfer of the United Nations Headquarters to Manhattan would, as they all knew, entail certain administrative difficulties for the Secretariat. There seemed to be no point in adding to those difficulties by asking the Secretary-General to arrange for a session in 1951, seeing that it was in the interests of the Sub-Commission itself, for the various reasons he had mentioned, not to hold one.

9. Mrs. MENON (India) regretted that she could not support the Haitian draft resolution. It would be better, she felt, for the Committee not to ask the Economic and Social Council to go back on a decision previously taken. The existing international situation was already making exceptional demands on the United Nations, and it had to face further expenditure in 1951 because of its move to the permanent Headquarters. The motives which had prompted the Haitian representative to submit his draft resolution could easily be understood. It should be realized, however, that to hold a session in 1951 would entail additional expenditure which would certainly affect the budgets of the various Member States. In such cases the decisions of principle taken by the majority should be respected.

10. The problems which the Sub-Commission had tried to solve at its last session were extremely important; they were age-old problems. Members of the Committee should not forget the lessons of history or imagine that

governments and nations would change their attitude merely on the advice of a few people who met once a year. Human behaviour could only be changed by education and the use of methods calling for a great deal of patience. The Indian delegation had accordingly not been surprised by the Economic and Social Council's decision. It believed that the Sub-Commission's programme of work did not make it essential to convene a session so soon.

11. In its resolution 303 G (XI) the Economic and Social Council had recommended governments to adopt educational measures likely to eradicate prejudices which might lead to discrimination. That resolution envisaged long-range programmes which the Member States should be left free to put into effect. The United Nations should place reliance upon governments; it should be their task to solve their special problems, in their own countries.

12. In view of the criticisms made at the 46th and 47th meetings of the Joint Second and Third Committee concerning the danger of overlapping as between the organs of the Council, the Indian delegation did not think it would be appropriate to try to rescind one of the wise decisions the Council had taken.

13. For those reasons she hoped that the representative of Haiti would agree to withdraw his draft resolution.

14. Mr. NORIEGA (Mexico) recalled that, at the fourth session of the General Assembly, the Third Committee had adopted a resolution, submitted by the United Kingdom and amended by Mexico, establishing principles for the protection of migrant workers against possible discrimination.¹ He also recalled that the International Labour Organisation had approved a draft convention on migrant labour. A perusal of that draft convention, however, showed that it did not in any way reflect the principles adopted by the Third Committee. The Committee's efforts had therefore been wasted.

15. Far from being discouraged by that fact, the Committee should, rather, be stimulated to renew its efforts to combat discrimination. Some members seemed inclined to consider discrimination as a chronic and incurable disease. His delegation, on the contrary, thought it was perfectly possible to cure that social evil, provided the treatment applied was not only vigorous but continuous.

16. The question would be very different from that raised by the United Kingdom representative if the members of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities were representatives of groups which had been discriminated against and not experts who had no experience in the matter. If the Sub-Commission had been composed of representatives of groups which had been discriminated against, it would certainly have decided to remain permanently in session for as long as necessary, without receiving remuneration. The United Kingdom representative thought it would not help the Sub-Commission's work to convene a session in 1951. Mr. Noriega asked whether the Committee should not first and foremost consider the effect of such a decision on the countless victims of discrimination throughout the world and

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourth Session, Third Committee*, 251st meeting.

whether it should not be guided by questions of principle rather than by purely practical considerations.

17. The Economic and Social Council had drawn up the calendar of meetings for 1951 rather hurriedly at the very end of its session. In such circumstances it could be asked to reconsider its decision. The Mexican delegation attached very great importance to the Sub-Commission's work and felt that its continuing nature should be maintained. It was a moral obligation of the United Nations to try to put an end to the terrible sufferings of a large proportion of mankind and it should not interrupt its efforts in that direction on the slender pretext of the move to Headquarters. Concerning the financial aspect of the question, he pointed out that the expenditure involved for a session of the Sub-Commission was already included in the Secretary-General's budget estimates for 1951.

18. In conclusion, Mr. Noriega hoped that all delegations would come round to the views of those who sincerely desired not to interrupt, even for a short time, the fight against discrimination. He regretted that for once India was not in the vanguard of such countries.

19. Mr. ANZE MATIENZO (Bolivia) said that his Government believed in the competence of the Economic and Social Council and the other organs of the United Nations and had always followed the policy of respecting their resolutions. Moreover, his Government had always felt that everything possible should be done to avoid overloading the budget of the United Nations.

20. Nevertheless, in the particular case under discussion, it had to be admitted that the Haitian draft resolution was inspired by lofty humanitarian ideals and coincided with the purposes of the Charter. Countries like Bolivia, which were striving to bring unity and justice to a community of mixed races, considered that the problem of preventing discrimination should be kept under constant study. Those who opposed the Haitian draft resolution had said that governments would doubtless be very slow in replying to the requests for information sent them and had pointed out that the Sub-Commission might find itself unable to proceed for want of data on which to work. The answer to that was that the Sub-Commission should urge and encourage those governments to reply to the requests which they received as quickly as possible.

21. In conclusion, he said he did not feel that the transfer of the United Nations offices to the Manhattan headquarters was a sufficient argument to justify upholding the Economic and Social Council's decision.

22. Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) declared that ever since the question of human rights had become a United Nations concern, his country had always been a warm protagonist of those rights.

23. The Cuban delegation would therefore support the draft resolution submitted by Haiti. In his opinion, however, the wording should be made less emphatic by redrafting the operative part as follows:

"Requests the Economic and Social Council to consider the possibility of holding a session of the Sub-Commission in 1951."

24. Mr. ROY (Haiti) suggested that there seemed little point in the Cuban representative's presenting a separate amendment and proposed that the same word-

ing should be used as in the operative part of the Egyptian draft resolution on the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and the Press which the Committee had adopted at its 277th meeting.

25. Mrs. MENON (India) had not intended to speak again but felt obliged to do so in view of the statement made by the Mexican representative.

26. To argue that, if the Committee were composed of persons who had suffered from discrimination, the general reaction to the Haitian draft resolution would have been quite different would seem to imply that the opponents of the proposal did not know what discrimination was. She protested against such an assumption and felt bound to remind the Committee that her country was probably among the first to have raised the question of discrimination in the United Nations and that her compatriots had also suffered from racial discrimination.

27. The emphasis should not, however, be misplaced. The Committee was not at the moment trying to decide whether action was needed to prevent discrimination but merely whether a session of the Sub-Commission should be convened in 1951.

28. Mr. MOODIE (Australia) felt he had to take the same attitude towards the Haitian draft resolution that he had taken at the 277th meeting towards the Egyptian draft resolution. He even found it difficult to accept the Cuban amendment. The Economic and Social Council had adopted a certain programme of work and, unless there were strong reasons, the Committee should not try to change those decisions. Some representatives, moreover, seemed to be basing their case on the assumption that no progress would be made if the Sub-Commission did not meet. It should be realized, however, that the question would continue to receive the attention of governments regardless of the calendar of meetings.

29. By trying to precipitate matters, the Committee might undermine the success of the work which had been undertaken: he could not therefore vote for the Haitian draft resolution.

30. Mr. LAMBROS (Greece) recalled that in connexion with the Egyptian draft resolution—which the representative of Haiti had cited as a parallel to his—certain members of the Committee had questioned the advisability of analysing the circumstances by which the Economic and Social Council had been swayed in drafting its resolutions. The reason why the Greek delegation had, despite its hesitations, voted for the Egyptian draft resolution was that the original text had been watered down (277th meeting). He still felt, however, that the Committee was venturing on rather uncertain ground and that it would be advisable to revert to the rule under which the Committee could accept or reject decisions of the Council but not amend them in detail.

31. Although he sympathized with the Haitian proposal, he joined the representative of India in urging the Haitian representative to withdraw his draft resolution.

32. Mr. NORIEGA (Mexico) did not think there was any doubt whatever as to the respective positions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council when the Assembly invited the Council to amend its

resolutions. The fundamental principle involved was the sovereignty of the General Assembly. The councils of the United Nations did not hand down a final verdict. If that were the case, the countries represented on the councils would control the fields falling within the purview of the Council to which they belonged. The role of the Assembly, and consequently of the Third Committee, was precisely to review the work accomplished by the Economic and Social Council, in the same way that the Fourth Committee reviewed the work of the Trusteeship Council. Mexico was a member of the Economic and Social Council and had voted for the calendar of conferences; that did not mean, however, that his delegation would feel obliged to abide by that vote if an alteration were proved to be desirable.

33. Mr. ANZE MATIENZO (Bolivia) agreed with the representative of India that the Committee was not discussing the merits of the problem of discrimination. For psychological reasons he supported the Haitian proposal; there should be a greater element of continuity in the studies which acted as a stimulus on governments. It was for the sake of that continuity that the Bolivian Government was ready to receive any suggestions which might make towards greater homogeneity within its own country. His government intended and had always intended to respect the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council which was a technical body but, as it had a membership of eighteen only, it could not impose its wishes on sixty Member States.

34. The Haitian proposal asking the Council to rescind its decision should, however, be made less imperative. He would prefer the compromise wording proposed by Cuba, which asked the Council to study the possibility of rescinding its decision.

35. Mr. PANYUSHKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) did not agree that, as suggested by some delegations, the Committee had to choose between the extreme of either adopting or rejecting the Economic and Social Council's resolutions. Other representatives advocated a moderate attitude and thought that the Council's decisions should be respected without any modifications. That was an equally illogical attitude: the Economic and Social Council was subordinate to the General Assembly. The Third Committee, in its turn, could not evade the questions under discussion. It was bound to give a frank opinion on the decisions adopted by the Council and to criticize or correct them. They all knew that recently the Economic and Social Council had avoided adopting decisions on important economic and social problems. It had not given sufficient study to such important questions as the political rights of women and equal pay for equal work. On the other hand, it had studied at excessive length secondary questions that had no world-wide significance.

36. His delegation considered that the fight against discrimination was one of the most important questions to be dealt with by the United Nations and would therefore vote in favour of the Haitian proposal as amended.

37. Mr. ROY (Haiti) wished to reply to two objections. The first was made by the United Kingdom representative who thought that, if the Sub-Commission were to be able to continue its work, it must receive the information requested from Member States, that is, exact information on the legislation adopted by Member

States to prevent discrimination and protect minorities. That was only one of the subjects with which the Sub-Commission should deal.

38. In reply to the second objection, raised by the representative of Greece, he would point out that the Economic and Social Council had had no real reason for deciding that the Sub-Commission should not meet in 1951 and had taken that decision for budgetary reasons only. As the Secretary-General had pointed out, some meetings had had to be dropped but that economy had operated only against the two Sub-Commissions of the Commission on Human Rights, namely the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. At its 277th meeting the Third Committee had asked the Council to reconsider its decision about the first of those Sub-Commissions. The saving, therefore, would be confined to abolishing one session in 1951, that of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which had only twelve members.

39. He agreed in principle to the Cuban amendment and, for the wording of the last paragraph of his draft resolution, he favoured the text adopted at the 277th meeting for the operative part of the Egyptian draft resolution (A/C.3/L.47).

40. In reply to the CHAIRMAN, Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) said he was prepared to accept the operative part of the Egyptian draft resolution adopted at the previous meeting; his main purpose was to make sure that the Sub-Commission should meet in 1951.

41. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Haiti (A/C.3/L.45), the operative paragraph of which was amended to read as follows:

"Resolves to invite the Economic and Social Council to reconsider its resolution 336 (XI) with a view to including a session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in its calendar of conferences for 1951."

The draft resolution, as modified, was adopted by 28 votes to 10 with 9 abstentions.

Long-range activities for children. United Nations International Children's Endowment Fund (A/1411) (continued)²

[Item 64]

42. Mr. LAUGIER (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Social Affairs) would have liked Mrs. Myrdal to be present to introduce the draft resolution on the problem of child welfare (A/1411), as that document was largely her work. In her absence he wished to make a few introductory remarks on the preparatory work which the draft resolution had required, and the problems which it had raised.

43. He quoted the last two paragraphs of resolution 310 (XI) of the Economic and Social Council, under which the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund was to be converted into an endowment fund. The two paragraphs raised different problems. First, there were the legal problems inasmuch as the Secretariat had had, for the purpose of defining

² See 275th meeting.

the new organ's work, to choose between merely aligning the various texts which had been successively adopted in the past, and integrating, in a single text, the elements of the original General Assembly resolution (57 (I)) with the new elements introduced by the Council's resolution. All the Secretariat services concerned had unanimously decided, though possibly with some internal reservations, in favour of the latter alternative, notwithstanding the rather difficult and delicate task it entailed for the Secretariat.

44. Secondly, from the legal and financial standpoint it had been necessary to decide whether the establishment of an endowment fund simply meant a change of name and terms of reference, or whether it involved dissolution of one body with the necessary winding up of its finances and the creation of a new body. The texts which had been adopted were designed to smooth out the difficulties in the transition from the old to the new organization and to carry out the wishes of the Council with a minimum of legal and financial formalities.

45. Lastly, in the matter of co-ordination, the United Nations co-ordination services had tried to get into informal touch with the many bodies concerned; those bodies would no doubt present their views to the Committee.

46. He pointed out that it had been the purpose of the Secretary-General to achieve a text which would make no substantial change in the Council's decisions or its policy and which could not be accepted both by the different United Nations organs concerned and the children of the world. The Secretary-General felt no touchiness about the exact wording of the composite resolution and would be glad if a thorough study of the draft produced improvements and resulted in final decisions that would ensure flexible, efficient and well co-ordinated operation.

47. Mr. PEREZ PEROZO (Venezuela) reminded the Committee that at the eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council, held at Geneva, the United States representative had estimated that between 6 and 10 million children had received assistance from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.³ In a memorandum submitted to the Social Commission (E/CN.5/201), the Secretary-General indicated that there were over 800 million children under fifteen years of age in the world, half of whom suffered from malnutrition or under-feeding, lacked medical care, or needed social welfare assistance. Those figures bore eloquent witness both to the relief work which UNICEF had accomplished and to what had still to be done in the field of child welfare.

48. The Venezuelan delegation thought it was a most happy coincidence that the General Assembly was called upon at the current session to review two of its most important resolutions in the social field. It had already taken a decision with regard to resolution 58 (I), concerning advisory social welfare services. It should take similar action with regard to resolution 57 (I), under which UNICEF had been set up. Those two resolutions had many features in common: both dealt with work of a highly humanitarian character—UNRRA's precious

legacy to the United Nations; both had been born of a desire to help war-devastated areas and had subsequently been extended to other equally unfortunate regions; both had in view the well-being of all the peoples of the world, whether they belonged to the United Nations or not. Those two resolutions, which so clearly showed the United Nations' concern for social problems, should not only be maintained but improved.

49. The Secretary-General's report showed that the rate of infant mortality, which was 25 per thousand in some countries, was as high as 500 per thousand in others. Those two facts alone were sufficient reason for maintaining UNICEF and amply proved that the Fund's efforts should be directed mainly to helping those countries which had the highest rate of child mortality, that is, the under-developed areas. The Venezuelan delegation felt that the Secretary-General's draft resolution formed an excellent basis for the decisions to be taken in that field. It did, however, call for some comments.

50. First, the Venezuelan delegation agreed with the distinction drawn in the third paragraph of the preamble between the long-term needs of children and those arising from serious, urgent emergencies, as well as the order of priority established between those two types of needs. It felt, however, that, in order to meet the long-term needs, assistance in kind was more important than the technical assistance mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) of the preamble. That was particularly true of under-developed countries. In order to carry out their child welfare programmes, the governments of those countries were in greater need of material assistance than of technical advice; the experience of Latin American countries had shown that no plan, however well conceived, would yield the expected results without the necessary resources to carry it into effect.

51. Secondly, the Venezuelan delegation could not accept as it stood paragraph 1 of the operative part, establishing a United Nations children's board. It did not think that it would be fair to base the board's composition on that of the Social Commission. True, the question of child welfare fell within that Commission's competence, but that was not a sufficient reason to justify the adoption of a decision unprecedented in the history of the United Nations. The Venezuelan delegation would prefer a more equitable composition; that was the more important when it was considered that the four members who would not be members of the Social Commission should, according to paragraph 1, include non-member States, and rightly so, like Switzerland, which had always taken an interest in UNICEF's work.

52. Moreover, in view of the permanent nature of the Fund visualized, the Economic and Social Council should appoint the members of the children's board for a specific period. But, since the composition of the Social Commission changed from year to year, it would be impossible to fix the term of office of members of the board if the composition of the latter were to be modelled on that of the Commission.

53. The Venezuelan delegation thought the children's board should, like the Executive Board of UNICEF, consist of twenty-five members—the advantage of an odd member was that it avoided an equal division of votes. The members should be elected by the Economic

³ See document E/AC.7/SR.162.

and Social Council and would not necessarily be Member States of the United Nations. The Council would, of course, take care to establish an equitable proportion between the number of Member and non-member States it elected. There was nothing to prevent the Council from electing a certain number of States represented on the Social Commission; it would also be advisable for the children's board to include some members belonging to the Economic and Social Council itself. The Council should also take due account of the principle of geographical distribution, which was all the more important in that case since the Fund would have a task of universal scope. Finally, members of the board would be eligible for re-election.

54. Thirdly, his delegation had serious doubts about the advisability of establishing an advisory committee made up of representatives of the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies. The machinery for co-ordination visualized in paragraph 3 of the operative part was, taken as a whole, much too complex and might compromise the administrative autonomy and freedom of action of the body to be set up. His delegation thought a solution should be sought rather in the direction of liaison between the administrative authorities of the Fund and the United Nations Technical Assistance Board. That would ensure the requisite co-ordination. However, it was not finally committed on the point and would be glad to consider any argument which might be advanced during the discussion in favour of the establishment of the suggested advisory committee.

55. The Economic and Social Council had proposed to fix 1 January 1951 as the date for giving effect to the resolution which the General Assembly would adopt if it decided to continue the work of UNICEF. But the Secretary-General feared that the Economic and Social Council might not by that time have decided on the composition of the children's board. In that connexion he pointed out that the Council was to meet shortly to consider the Korean question and decide where to hold its next session; there was no reason why it should not hold the proposed election at the same time.

56. Summing up his observations, he submitted to the Committee an amendment (A/C.3/L.50) to paragraph 1 of the operative part of the draft resolution proposed by the Secretary-General (A/1411).

57. Mr. DANTON JOBIM (Brazil) pointed out that the fate of millions of children depended on the decision the Committee would take. The solution had already been clearly formulated and there was no reason why it should not be accepted.

58. The Brazilian delegation, after advocating that the Fund should first concentrate its efforts on Europe, had been one of those which had later approved the extension of the Fund's activities to other parts of the world. The work to be done in the under-developed areas was indeed substantial. Out of the world total of 900 million children under fifteen years of age, more than 600 million lived in those areas and for the most part suffered from the results of undernourishment and inadequate medical care and educational facilities. Statistics of infantile mortality were very revealing in that respect. The figures were, for example, 165 per thousand in Brazil, 161 per thousand in Chile, 146 per thousand in

Ecuador and 150 per thousand in Colombia, whereas they did not exceed 90 per thousand in most European countries.

59. Brazil had of course redoubled its efforts to remedy that state of affairs; but its achievements were negligible in relation to what remained to be done. International co-operation was, therefore, indispensable and Brazil had appealed to UNICEF to develop the services of assistance to mothers and children in four north-eastern states. It had, in addition, just contributed the equivalent of \$US 90,000 to the Fund to help other countries.

60. He recalled that at the sixth session of the Social Commission three views had been put forward regarding the future of the Fund. The first was that the Fund had completed its mission in Europe. The second view was that, though the health conditions of European children had improved a great deal, much still remained to be done. The third, which was the view supported by the majority, held that the experience gained in Europe should be used to carry the work to other areas.

61. In spite of strong opposition, the majority had been in favour of extended action, provided it was carried out on the same basis, that is, on the system of voluntary contributions and the grant of relief in kind. The same discussion had been opened at the eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council and it was then that, in a spirit of compromise, the Council had asked the Secretary-General to prepare his draft resolution.

62. As to the future of the Fund, he thought such important work should under no circumstances be interrupted. The new body should, therefore, incorporate the main characteristics of the old one, even at the price of certain concessions by the parties concerned. He quoted the statements made by the United States representative at the 162nd meeting of the Social Commission in Geneva the previous summer.⁴ Those statements reflected the interest taken by the United States in the problem of children.

63. His delegation had already in Geneva advocated continuance of the system of voluntary contributions, first, because that system had worked well in the past and, secondly, because, if the United Nations budget had to carry those expenses, many Member States would be unable to meet their obligations. In a spirit of compromise, however, his delegation had made an exception for purely administrative expenses, which might be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations. Those expenses must, however, be clearly defined so as to exclude explicitly the travelling and administrative expenses of missions.

64. With regard to another objection which had been raised, he thought it was a mistake to believe that voluntary contributions would be smaller in future. They had fallen in the previous year only because of the uncertainty felt by some governments with regard to the future of the Fund and because some thought that in assisting war-devastated countries the Fund had completed its task. That was not true, as they had come to know, and Brazil, in particular, realized the necessity for a fresh effort both by the public and by governments.

⁴See document E/AC.7/SR.162.

65. Concerning the Fund's programme, he said it should be limited to the system of assistance in kind and it should be left to the specialized agencies and the Technical Assistance Administration to provide experts. Moreover, the advisory role of the specialized agencies should be limited, as in the past, to everything that concerned the technical aspects of assistance and pilot projects and should not touch on the preparation of programmes. The latter should be the exclusive business of the Fund's technical staff, subject to approval by the programme committee. Finally, it would seem quite superfluous to set up an advisory committee; that would be an example of proliferation of organs. The part of the

resolution relating to those various points should be amended.

66. In conclusion, he once more emphasized the importance, under existing circumstances, of the problem of children; if it were solved it might contribute to the establishment of social peace in the world.

67. After a short exchange of views, the CHAIRMAN fixed Monday 9 October at noon as the time limit for submission of amendments to the Secretary-General's draft resolution (A/1411).

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.