



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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President: Mr. C. W. A. SCHURMANN
(Netherlands).

Present:

Representatives of the following States: Afghanistan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sudan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

Observers for the following Member States: Argentina, Australia, El Salvador, Greece, Haiti, India, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Yugoslavia.

Observers for the following non-member States: Federal Republic of Germany, Holy See.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; World Health Organization.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

AGENDA ITEM 21

Measures to be adopted in connexion with the earthquakes in Morocco (E/L.856)

1. Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) introduced the draft resolution submitted by Afghanistan, Japan and the Sudan (E/L.856). He emphasized that the disaster which had overtaken Morocco on 1 March 1959 concerned not only that country but the whole international community. The town of Agadir, which had played an important role in Morocco's economy, had been almost entirely destroyed. There were 15,000 dead and 8,000 injured, and 30,000 people had been made homeless; the material damage amounted to many millions of dollars. The Government and people of the young State of Morocco, with the assistance of a number of countries, had been able to tackle the numerous immediate problems which had arisen. The Government of Morocco would now have to rebuild Agadir and enable its people to return to normal life. It would not be able to carry out that gigantic task without additional assistance from the international community. The United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned

should lose no time in dealing with the problem. Unanimous adoption by the Council of the draft resolution would be a further proof of the spirit of international solidarity which many countries had already displayed in connexion with the disaster.

2. Mr. MATSUDAIRA (Japan) offered his sincere sympathy to the Government and people of Morocco. The rebuilding of Agadir would be a heavy burden for the new State, which was engaged in developing its economy. He therefore hoped that the draft resolution, of which he was one of the sponsors, would be adopted unanimously.

3. Mr. SOSA RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela) welcomed the action by the delegations of Afghanistan, Japan and Sudan in submitting a draft resolution which invited the Members of the United Nations, and the specialized agencies concerned, to render assistance to the Government of Morocco.

4. He would vote in favour of the draft resolution, which expressed the feelings of solidarity which had inspired the international community in the face of the disaster at Agadir.

5. Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America) said that the Council, more than any other United Nations body, should express its deep concern at the tragic consequences of the earthquakes in Morocco. He therefore congratulated the delegations of Afghanistan, Japan and the Sudan on having asked for the question to be included in the agenda and on having submitted a draft resolution which would enable the international community to give tangible evidence of its sympathy with the victims of the Agadir disaster. The United States had immediately sent emergency relief to a value of \$1.5 million in the form of food, clothing and medicaments. Units of the United States Navy had participated in the operations, and United States private organizations had co-operated with government organizations in bringing help to the victims.

6. In conclusion he said that he would be very glad to vote for the draft resolution before the Council.

7. Mr. MICHALOWSKI (Poland) said that a tragedy such as that which had taken place at Agadir could not leave the international community indifferent. The Polish delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution and would like to be added to the list of sponsors. He suggested, however, that the text of the draft resolution would be improved by the insertion in paragraph 1 of the words "the consequences of" before the words "the recent earthquakes".

8. Mr. SHANAHAN (New Zealand) expressed the sincere sympathy of the New Zealand Government and people for the Government and people of Morocco and for the families of the victims of the disaster. New Zealand knew from its own experience what loss and suffering could be caused by earthquakes. His country had been glad to note the spontaneous demonstrations of sympathy and solidarity which the tragedy of Agadir had called forth all over the world. Large sums to be

used for the relief of the victims of the Agadir disaster had been raised in New Zealand by public subscription, and the New Zealand Government had offered the Government of Morocco the sum of £5,000 and a large quantity of blankets.

9. A disaster such as that which had befallen Agadir concerned the whole international community and in particular the Economic and Social Council. The New Zealand delegation would therefore whole-heartedly support the draft resolution which had been laid before the Council.

10. Mr. HESSELLUND-JENSEN (Denmark) expressed his Government's sympathy for the Government and people of Morocco. He hoped that the draft resolution, which his delegation would support, would enable fresh assistance to be afforded without delay to the victims of the Agadir disaster. Denmark had helped them to the best of its ability—funds had been sent for the purchase of food and medicaments; three aircraft had been placed at the disposal of the Moroccan Government for the transport of victims, and the staff of the Danish Red Cross had taken part in the rescue operations.

11. Mr. DUDLEY (United Kingdom) said that it was entirely fitting for the Council to place a disaster of such magnitude high on its agenda. The United Kingdom was proud to be one of the Governments which had contributed to the relief of victims: it had provided a considerable cash contribution as well as aircraft for the transport of supplies and refugees. Among the international organizations the work of UNICEF had been outstanding. The United Nations and specialized agencies should seek practical ways of giving further help. For instance, the Government of Morocco might wish for the kind of help in planning and surveying that the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance could supply. But it was for that Government to decide what assistance it wanted.

12. His delegation would support the resolution.

13. Mr. DE LEQUERICA (Spain) referred to the horror felt by the Spanish people in the face of the Agadir disaster. The Spanish Government had been among those which had immediately come to Morocco's help by providing aircraft and ships for the transport of medicaments and hospital supplies; public subscriptions had also been organized in Spain and Spanish Morocco. He whole-heartedly supported the draft resolution, which would enable the United Nations to act in a spirit of international brotherhood. He pointed out that the additional words proposed by the Polish representative were already to be found in the Spanish version of the draft resolution.

14. Mrs. MIRONOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed the sincere sympathy of the people of the Soviet Union for the Moroccan people on the occasion of the tragedy which had befallen them. The Soviet Union had immediately sent medical supplies, tents to shelter the refugees and other urgently needed items to Agadir.

15. Her delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution.

16. Mr. ORTIZ MARTIN (Costa Rica) said that he would support the draft resolution, which bore witness both to the consternation which the news of the catastrophe at Agadir had aroused throughout the

world and to the desire of all countries to aid its victims.

17. Mr. PENTEADO (Brazil) expressed deep sympathy for the people and Government of Morocco and said that he would vote in favour of the draft resolution.

18. Mr. TCHOBANOV (Bulgaria) said that the Bulgarian people and Government had been profoundly shocked by the news of the disaster at Agadir. Expressing the hope that the draft resolution before the Council would help to relieve the sufferings of the victims and to rehabilitate the devastated areas, he requested that his delegation should be included among the sponsors.

19. Mr. SCHWEITZER (Chile) associated himself with the expressions of sympathy offered by the preceding speakers. The people of Chile had themselves been the victims of earthquakes and were eager to make their contribution to the joint effort to help the victims of Agadir.

20. His delegation would give its support to the draft resolution.

21. Mr. DUFLOS (France) recalled that his delegation had already drawn attention to the extent of the assistance given to Morocco by various nations and by international organizations such as UNICEF. The immediate help given by France and a number of other countries had enabled much to be accomplished. That, however, was not enough, and further action should be encouraged by the United Nations.

22. France would therefore vote in favour of the draft resolution.

23. Mr. MEIJER (Netherlands) said that his country, which had had to contend with a national catastrophe a few years earlier, knew how much the interest and assistance of the international community meant to the victims in such circumstances. More than 10,000 people had perished at Agadir, and the tragedy was irreparable. Other countries could, however, show Morocco that they were not indifferent to its sufferings and that they wished to join with it in the reconstruction effort. Immediately after the catastrophe the Netherlands had shown its desire to help by rushing a squadron of the Royal Netherlands Navy to the scene.

24. He would vote in favour of the draft resolution, the adoption of which would unquestionably help, even if only on a modest scale, to strengthen international action on behalf of the Moroccan people.

25. The PRESIDENT invited the observer for India to address the Council.

26. Mr. JHA (India) said that he would like to associate his delegation with the efforts which were being made by the Council to assist Morocco. India, which had been the victim of two major earthquakes in its own territory during the past twenty-five years, was only too well aware of the sufferings and innumerable problems to which such calamities gave rise. In token of its profound sympathy for the victims of the Agadir tragedy, the Indian Government had immediately shipped medical supplies to Morocco by special aircraft. It would like to take part in the great movement of international solidarity which was now under way and which served to demonstrate that the humanitarian principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter were unanimously supported by all peoples.

27. Mr. PAZHAWAK (Afghanistan) said that the sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the amendment proposed by the representative of Poland.^{1/}

28. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution (E/L.856), as amended.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

29. The PRESIDENT invited the observer for Morocco to address the Council.

30. Mr. BEN ABOUD (Morocco) expressed the appreciation of his Government for the magnificent demonstration of fraternal solidarity which the Economic and Social Council had just given. He would like to thank all the nations which had expressed their sympathy to Morocco and had offered it material assistance. He also expressed the gratitude of the Moroccan people for the assistance that had been provided at once by various international organizations, particularly UNICEF. Morocco was a young country which had suffered greatly as the result of recent floods and a food poisoning incident which had affected 10,000 people. Added to those disasters, the destruction of the great port and tourist resort of Agadir had been all the more severe. The Moroccan people had immediately set to work to try to rebuild Agadir within the space of one or two years. The task would nevertheless be an enormous one, and Morocco was grateful to all the countries which had expressed a desire to help and had now co-ordinated their efforts under the aegis of the United Nations. Morocco would never forget the remarkable demonstration of international solidarity which it had just witnessed and would, for its part, consistently seek to put into practice the great principles enshrined in the Charter.

31. Mr. HEYWARD (United Nations Children's Fund) said that the Executive Board of UNICEF had decided, on the recommendation of the Executive Director, to make an allocation of \$50,000 for the dispatch to Morocco of supplies requested by the Government of that country; those supplies had now reached their destination. Through the League of Red Cross Societies UNICEF was co-ordinating its relief activities with those of national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies which, together with religious groups and associations, had already sent hundreds of tons of clothing, medical supplies and foodstuffs to Morocco. In a general discussion of assistance policies relating to emergencies, the Executive Board at its last session had expressed the view that countries could, if they so desired, seek from UNICEF not only immediate relief but also long-term assistance which would be required during the reconstruction period. UNICEF was already cooperating with the Moroccan Government in carrying out several long-term programmes, including a programme for the training of nurses, a large-scale anti-trachoma campaign and a nutrition education programme.

32. Dr. COIGNEY (World Health Organization) said that on 10 March 1960 the Moroccan Government had asked WHO to designate a specialist to help it to organize measures for the control of epidemics at Agadir. Dr. MacKenzie of the United Kingdom National Health Service had been named to that post. It was

feared that epidemics of typhoid, exanthematic typhus and even plague might break out at Agadir. In his report Dr. MacKenzie had alluded to the danger of an epidemic of typhoid fever, which the Moroccan public health authorities had warded off through mass vaccinations. There was no reason to fear an epidemic of smallpox, for 70 to 80 per cent of the population had been vaccinated against it before the catastrophe, nor was there any fear of cholera, since that disease had never appeared in Morocco. While large quantities of DDT had been used as a disinfectant, it should be noted that neither exanthematic typhus nor relapsing fever were endemic in the area. He had been favourably impressed by the excellent manner in which the refugee camps set up by the army had been organized. WHO was following the situation closely and would step in immediately if the necessity should arise. It was prepared, within the limits of its competence and in conformity with the provisions of its Constitution, to provide such assistance as the Moroccan Government might request of it without prejudice to the long-term assistance which might be envisaged.

33. Mr. HILL (Secretariat) said that the Secretary-General would communicate to the Moroccan Government the text of the resolution which had just been adopted and would act in accordance with the directives given him in paragraph 6 of that resolution. The Director of the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, through his representative at Rabat, had already offered, on behalf of the organizations participating in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, to aid the Moroccan Government within the framework of that Programme. There was every reason to expect that the assistance which would thus be provided would prove very useful during the reconstruction period.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Procedure for the study of the question of capital punishment (E/L.857) (concluded)

34. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to continue its consideration of agenda item 12 and in particular the draft resolution submitted by Chile (E/L.857).

35. In reply to a question from Mrs. MIRONOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. HILL (Secretariat) said that the consultations provided for in the operative paragraph of the draft resolution would not entail any additional expense, since the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was to meet in any case.

36. Mr. SCHWEITZER (Chile) said that for the sake of precision he would like to add to the operative part of the draft resolution which he had submitted the words "set up under General Assembly resolution 415 (V)" after the word "Offenders".^{2/}

37. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution (E/L.857), as revised by the sponsor.

The revised draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

^{1/} The amended text of the draft resolution was subsequently distributed as document E/L.856/Rev.1.

^{2/} The revised text of the draft resolution was subsequently distributed as document E/L.857/Rev.1.