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President: Mr. Daniel COSÍO VILLEGAS (Mexico).

Present:

Representatives of the following States: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, 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, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Norway, Philippines, United Arab Republic, Yugoslavia.

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

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

AGENDA ITEM 6

International co-operation on cartography (*concluded*)*

1. The PRESIDENT observed that at its 1064th meeting the Council had adopted a draft resolution (E/L.827) on international co-operation on cartography consisting of three parts. As no vote had been taken on the short preamble which preceded those three parts, he proposed that the Council should consider the preamble as having been adopted.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Freedom of information (E/3229 and Corr.1) (*concluded*):**

(a) Report by the Secretary-General on media of information in under-developed countries (Council resolutions 574 D (XIX) and 643 (XXIII));

(b) Relevant sections of the reports of the Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other specialized agencies, requested in General Assembly resolution 1313 A (XIII)

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (E/3239 AND CORR.1)

2. Mr. SAPOZHNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that in the Social Committee the Soviet delegation had taken the position that a substantive report on freedom of information was unnecessary and that, in any case, it should not be entrusted to a consultant in view of the authority which would be vested in him. That position was not reflected in paragraph 6 of the Social Committee's report (E/3239 and Corr.1). By adopting the paragraph in its present form the Council would give the impression that every delegation had accepted the procedure indicated. A sentence should therefore be added to paragraph 6, worded as follows: "Some delegations objected to a consultant being vested with such authority."

3. Mr. BUXTON (United Kingdom) observed that in the Social Committee his delegation had also raised a number of objections to part B of the draft resolution, and that if the Soviet point of view were to be reflected in paragraph 6, his delegation's objections should also be recorded in the paragraph. However, it was not

* Resumed from the 1064th meeting.

** Resumed from the 1062nd meeting.

customary for individual views or suggestions to be stated in reports such as the one under consideration.

4. With regard to the specific question whether the drafting of the report on freedom of information should be entrusted to a consultant, it appeared that the balance of view in the Social Committee was that the Secretary-General might call upon a consultant if he thought he should do so.

5. In the circumstances the United Kingdom delegation did not believe that paragraph 6 of the report should be amended.

6. Mr. SAPOZHNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had not suggested that the report of the Social Committee should reflect the views of every delegation. However, since there had been a difference of opinion the statement of only one position was unacceptable. The Soviet delegation had indicated in the Social Committee that in view of the burden that the drafting of the report on freedom of information would place upon the Secretary-General it had considered, not that the report should be drafted by a consultant and merely transmitted to the Council by the Secretary-General, but that the entire project should be abandoned. The Social Committee's report should indicate, however briefly, that not every member of the Council had agreed to the procedure set out in paragraph 6.

7. Mr. Zahiruddin AHMED (Pakistan) observed that the question of the procedure to be followed had been discussed at length in the Social Committee, and that, as Chairman, he had invited delegations to submit any amendments they considered necessary. No amendment had been submitted and the general view had been that the Secretary-General was perhaps in the best position to determine how the report should be drafted. It would therefore seem undesirable at the present stage to limit the discretion thus left to the Secretary-General and to amend paragraph 6 which accurately reflected the views of the great majority.

8. Mr. SAPOZHNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was not his intention to limit the discretion left to the Secretary-General. However, it was clear from the text of the draft resolution that the report on freedom of information was to be submitted in the Secretary-General's name. Paragraph 6 of the Social Committee's report as worded at present might give rise to a different interpretation. As the Committee's report was submitted to the Council for approval, it was open to any delegation to request that it should be drafted in terms that would not give rise to a misunderstanding.

9. Mr. BUXTON (United Kingdom) said that, if the amendment requested by the Soviet representative was accepted, it should also be stated that several delegations had indicated their agreement when the Secretary-General had announced that he intended to call upon a consultant. However, he wished to point out again that it was not usual for a report such as that of the Social Committee to record the views expressed by the various

delegations. Those views were set out in the summary records of the meetings.

10. Mr. SAPOZHNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that it would be clearer to indicate the views that had been expressed on both sides in the debate in the Committee. However, as the United Kingdom representative had not made a specific proposal along those lines, he merely requested a separate vote on paragraph 6 of the Committee's report.

11. The PRESIDENT called for a vote on paragraph 6 of the Social Committee's report (E/3239 and Corr.1).

Paragraph 6 was adopted by 15 votes to 3.

12. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on the draft resolutions recommended by the Social Committee in its report (E/3239 and Corr.1), and said that he would first put to the vote the preamble and part A, followed by part B, of draft resolution I.

The preamble and part A of draft resolution I were adopted unanimously.

13. Mr. BUXTON (United Kingdom) asked for a separate vote on sub-paragraph (a) of operative paragraph 2 of part B.

Operative paragraph 2 (a) was adopted by 14 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

Part B of draft resolution I was adopted by 13 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.

14. The PRESIDENT called for a vote on draft resolutions II and III.

Draft resolution II was adopted unanimously.

15. Mr. PAZHWAQ (Afghanistan) asked for a separate vote on the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution III.

The fourth preambular paragraph was adopted by 13 votes to 4, with 1 abstention.

Draft resolution III, as a whole, was adopted by 13 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.

16. Mr. Zahiruddin AHMED (Pakistan) said that, according to his delegation's interpretation of the fourth preambular paragraph, the Council was not now taking a decision on the desirability of, or need for, a United Nations declaration on freedom of information.

17. Mr. PAZHWAQ (Afghanistan) said that he had voted against the fourth preambular paragraph in the belief that it was unnecessary to make any reference to a United Nations declaration in view of the decision to refer consideration of the question to the twenty-eighth session of the Council. The paragraph might influence the position of delegations in the Council and in the General Assembly. Moreover, his delegation felt that the short period of time available to Governments to prepare for the debate would not permit the thorough consideration of the question which its importance warranted. It was because of his delegation's objection to the fourth preambular paragraph that it abstained on the draft resolution as a whole.

AGENDA ITEM 9

Report of the Population Commission (E/3240)**REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (E/3240)**

18. The PRESIDENT asked the Council to vote simultaneously on draft resolutions I, II and III in the report of the Social Committee (E/3240).

Draft resolutions I, II and III were adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Confirmation of members of functional commissions of the Council (E/3221 and Add.1)

19. Mr. ROSLOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked for a separate vote on the person nominated for appointment to the Statistical Commission and the first person nominated for appointment to the Population Commission.

20. Mr. CHENG Paonan (China) made a similar request in connexion with the person nominated for appointment to the Social Commission.

By 13 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions, Mr. Chung-sieu Chen was confirmed as a member of the Statistical Commission and Mr. Pao-yi Tsao as a member of the Population Commission.

By 17 votes to 1, Mr. Zdeněk Cerník was confirmed as a member of the Social Commission.

21. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to confirm the other nominations for membership in the functional commissions as set forth in the note by the Secretary-General (E/3221 and Add.1).

The nominations were confirmed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Financial implications of actions of the Council (E/3243 and Corr.1)

22. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretary-General had submitted a summary of the financial implications of the actions of the Council (E/3243 and Corr.1). He invited the members of the Council to comment on the statement.

23. Mr. VIAUD (France) pointed out that consideration by the Council of the financial implications of its actions was somewhat of an academic exercise. While it was of course useful for the Council to be informed of the expenses entailed by the actions it had taken at the session, in point of fact the Council had no authority to grant the necessary funds and therefore the estimates of costs submitted to it served merely to warn it against costly undertakings. Every delegation had to observe some degree of restraint when it proposed or supported action which had financial implications.

24. The French delegation asked whether, taking into account the provisions of rule 34, paragraph 3, of the

rules of procedure, the Secretary-General might not in future be asked to inform the Council whether a project it had approved could be included in the current work programme and, if not, what project could be eliminated or deferred in favour of the project in question. Under the terms of resolution 664 (XXIV) the Council could indicate the extent to which, by the exercise of discretion in the timing of projects, the Secretary-General could undertake additional work within existing resources.

25. The French delegation wished to draw the Council's attention to the question, because it intended to raise the matter at the twenty-eighth session when the Council examined the co-ordination of activities for the next five years and would like to have the views of the other delegations. The Co-ordination Committee would be the body best qualified to consider the question and make suggestions to the Council.

26. Mr. BAZYKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had always stressed the need for the greatest economy and for carrying out projects within the available budget resources. His delegation would state its views more fully at the forthcoming session when the financial implications of the measures taken by the Council at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions were examined.

27. Mr. KAUFMANN (Netherlands) supported the French representative's comments. During the discussion of another item on the agenda his delegation had pointed out that consideration must be given to financing certain new activities — as, for example, sources of energy — by using resources earmarked for other work, particularly studies and research. He hoped that the question would be studied at the next session as had been suggested by the French representative.

AGENDA ITEM 16

Considerations of the provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session and establishment of dates for opening debate on items (E/3210; E/L.828)

28. The PRESIDENT called the attention of members to the note by the Secretary-General (E/3210) which contained the list of items which the Council had decided at its resumed twenty-sixth session to include on the agenda of its twenty-eighth session. In accordance with the decision which the Council had just taken, the question of a draft declaration on freedom of information should be added to that list. In addition, the report on industrialization and sources of energy which the Council had requested the Secretary-General to prepare (resolution 711 A (XXVII)) might be considered under item 5 of the agenda.

29. The Secretary-General had also prepared a working paper (E/L.828) concerning the arrangement of business at the twenty-eighth session with a view to assisting the Council to establish approximate dates for the opening of debate on the various items.

30. In reply to a question from Mr. VIAUD (France), the PRESIDENT confirmed that the Co-ordination

Committee would not meet before the opening of the session, and that the co-ordination of activities would be the subject of general discussion in plenary meeting before being referred to the Committee.

31. Mr. SAPOZHNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that General Assembly resolution 1313 A (XIII) expressed the hope that the Council would formulate a programme of concrete action and measures for the development of information enterprises in under-developed countries. The general question of freedom of information should therefore be placed on the agenda for the session and not simply the question of a draft declaration on freedom of information.

32. The PRESIDENT observed that the decision taken by the Council at its current session dealt exclusively with the question of a draft declaration on freedom of information.

33. Mr. SAPOZHNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in his view the Council's decision did not preclude discussion of the question as a whole in accordance with the General Assembly's resolution.

34. The PRESIDENT said that in his working paper on arrangement of business (E/L.828), the Secretary-General had suggested that the Technical Assistance Committee should meet on Monday, 29 June. The suggestion appeared to be sound, and the delegations concerned should be ready to take part in the two meetings which would take place on the date indicated.

35. With regard to the possibility of establishing a committee on questions relating to the United Nations Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, which was referred to in paragraph 6 of the working paper by the Secretary-General, the Council might prefer, in view of the preliminary character of the report to be submitted by the Special Fund, to discuss that report in plenary meeting and do without the assistance of such a committee.

36. Lastly, the question of the draft declaration on freedom of information could be examined by the Council in plenary meeting during the fourth week.

37. Mr. BAZYKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that, in view of the great importance which the Council attached to the work of the regional economic commissions, it would be better to make provision for consideration of the reports of those commissions in plenary meeting rather than in committee.

38. Mr. VAKIL (Secretary of the Council) explained that the reports of the regional economic commissions were part of the documentation relating to item 2 of the agenda (World economic situation) which would be considered in plenary. The Secretary-General suggested that the detailed discussion of the reports should take place in the Economic Committee, as in recent years.

39. Mr. BAZYKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it should be clearly understood that, in accordance with the usual practice, the reports of the regional economic commissions would be considered first in plenary.

40. Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America) said that his delegation was fully prepared to approve the work programme which had been very carefully prepared by the Secretary-General. In view of the heavy agenda for the twenty-eighth session, it was essential that delegations should receive all the necessary documentation in good time to enable them to discharge their functions properly.

41. His delegation agreed with the President that it might not be necessary to establish a committee on questions relating to the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance at the next session; his delegation was, however, anxious to stress the importance it attached to the establishment of such a committee in the future.

42. Mr. CHENG Paonan (China) asked why the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, which was only one part of the report of the Commission on Human Rights, constituted a separate item in the agenda.

43. Mr. VAKIL (Secretary of the Council) replied that in its consideration of item 12 the Council would no doubt study certain chapters of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women and also some parts of the report of the Commission on Human Rights. If, however, the Council wished to combine the two items under a single heading the Secretariat for its part would have no objection.

44. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should approve the provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session as amended by the inclusion, as a separate item, of the question of a draft declaration on freedom of information, and by the inclusion of Council resolution 711 A (XXVII) in the annotations of item 5. He also proposed that the Council should approve the Secretary-General's suggestions regarding the arrangement of business at the session, set out in document E/L.828, on the understanding that: (a) the Technical Assistance Committee would be convened on 29 June 1959; (b) the report of the Governing Council of the Special Fund would be considered in plenary meeting; (c) discussions of the new item on the question of a draft declaration on freedom of information would begin in plenary during the fourth week of the session.

It was so decided.

Closure of the session

45. The PRESIDENT said that the twenty-seventh session of the Council would prove to have been particularly fruitful. The International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Finance Corporation were preparing to expand their activities considerably. The decisions regarding industrialization, agrarian reform and sources of energy augured well for the future, and despite the differences of opinion which had been expressed with regard to freedom of information, there was reason to hope that in that field, too, progress would

soon be made. He thanked all delegations for the part which they had taken in the Council's work.

46. Mr. ZULOAGA (Venezuela), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of Costa Rica and Chile, Mr. PHILLIPS (United States of America), Mr. VIAUD (France), speaking also on behalf of the Bulgarian, Finnish, Netherlands, Polish and Spanish delegations, Mr. Zahiruddin AHMED (Pakistan), on behalf of the Commonwealth members of the Council, Mr. CHENG Paonan (China), Mr. TAZHWAK (Afghanistan), speaking also on behalf of the representative of Sudan, Mr. ARKADEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. GIRETTI (Italy), speaking on behalf of all the observers and all the representatives of the specialized agencies, and Mr. HOO (Under-Secretary for Conference Services), speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General and of the secretariat staff, expressed their gratitude to the President of the Economic and Social Council not only for the skill with which he had directed the discussions but also for the role he had played in making preparations for the Council to hold its twenty-seventh session in Mexico City. They particularly wished to express their thanks to the President of the United States of Mexico, who had honoured the Council by inaugurating the session in person; they also expressed their sincere gratitude to the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

to the Mexican delegation and to the Mexican authorities and people for their generous hospitality. Those who had taken part, in whatever way, in the twenty-seventh session of the Council would always remember a country and a people nurtured on age-old traditions and inspired by the most modern spirit, whose achievements in the fields both of culture and of economic and social development were an admirable example to the world.

47. Mr. GARCÍA REYNOSO (Mexico) thanked all those who had spoken so movingly of his country. Mexico was a country in the process of development, and it was sparing no effort to improve the welfare and encourage the economic and social progress of its people; nevertheless, it realized that much remained to be done. The Mexican Government was particularly happy to have invited the Economic and Social Council to meet in its capital, as it had in that way contributed to making one of the most important organs of the United Nations better known, and had thus worked for the ideal of human fraternity which it had always cherished.

48. The PRESIDENT declared the twenty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council closed.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.