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President : Mr. J. MICHALOWSKI (Poland).

Present :

Representatives of the following States: Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Poland, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia.

Observers for the following Member States: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Hungary, Iraq, Mali, Mexico, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden.

Observers for the following non-member States: Federal Republic of Germany, Holy See, 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, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

AGENDA ITEM 3

General review of the development, co-ordination and concentration of the economic, social and human rights programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole (E/3611 and Add.1 and 2, E/3612 and Corr.1, E/3615, E/3620 and Add.1, E/3621 and Add.1, E/3623 and Add.1-3, E/3625 and Add.1, E/3627, E/3630, E/3632, E/3642, E/3647 and Corr.1, E/3651, E/3657, E/3660; E/L.961 and E/L.964)

GENERAL DEBATE (*concluded*)

1. Miss SALT (United Kingdom) said that the twenty-sixth report of ACC (E/3625 and Add.1) and the report of the *ad hoc* Working Group on Co-ordination (E/3647 and Corr.1) had been of great assistance to her delegation

when faced with the staggering mass of documents submitted to the Council in connexion with item 3 of its agenda. The virtual impossibility of even the largest delegations achieving familiarity with all the documents made her wonder whether the present method of dealing with the general review should not be reconsidered. If the work of the Council each year on the co-ordination item were to remain both manageable and useful, ways and means should be sought of reversing the trend of constantly mounting piles of paper, and so lightening the burden on the Secretariat and on the delegations.

2. Co-ordination could mean nothing or everything or all things to all men. To her delegation, the comprehensive principles which ACC, as its report indicated in paragraph 31, had agreed upon to cover the co-ordinating role of the resident representatives, seemed a live example of what co-ordination really meant: a free agreement, freely reached by responsible officials, each ready to subordinate, if need be, his own organization's narrow parochial interests in some measure to the greater interest of all. Another point she wished to stress was that co-ordination must be a continuous day-to-day process, not an occasional shot in the arm administered by some visiting physician.

3. The two reports to which she had referred constituted vital signposts in the consideration of that item. It might therefore be wise to choose the committees which had produced those two reports, with such adjustments as might be needed, as a base on which to build the Council's work of co-ordination in the Development Decade ahead. If the United Nations was to achieve the objectives of the Decade, a sustained effort to promote the co-ordination of the social and economic activities of the United Nations family would be essential.

4. She recalled the warning given by the Acting Secretary-General, in his introductory statement at the 1222nd meeting, that the Secretariat was being rapidly brought to breaking point by constant requests for statements, reports, appraisals and reviews. He had also appealed to the Council to be less stringent with regard to deadlines. Her delegation was in unreserved sympathy with both those requests and hoped that all delegations would join in promising the Acting Secretary-General that they would henceforth scrutinize, with his words in mind, every draft resolution submitted to them. To do otherwise would be to risk losing the inspiration of the Development Decade in a torrent of paper and wasting the high quality of the Secretariat on work which would quickly become beyond its capacity to produce and beyond the capacity of the delegations to absorb. If the Acting Secretary-General's words were to be forgotten, there was a real danger that so much of the time and energy

of the staffs of the United Nations family would in the coming years be devoted to the production of reports on what they were doing, had done and intended to do, that the time and strength left available for actually doing it would diminish to vanishing point. To divert time and energy from creative and positive action into any other channel would obviously not foster the objectives of the Development Decade.

5. Another danger was that of over-distending the Council's system of committees, commissions, groups of experts and other bodies. Apart from the heavy burden which the proliferation of such bodies placed on secretariats, it had to be remembered that delegations, too, had their breaking point.

6. The Development Decade was an idea or an ideal to which the Members of the United Nations had unanimously pledged themselves; it was not a programme which would go into operation in 1962 and come neatly to an end in 1970. The Decade was an inspiration to greater effort which would permeate everything that would be done by the United Nations in the coming years but which was not and could not be susceptible of exact measurements year by year.

7. Lastly, she wished to express her appreciation to the heads of the specialized agencies for presenting their reports personally to the Council; her delegation would comment upon those reports in committee.

8. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the United Kingdom representative's statement had thrown light on a number of important factors.

9. Much better results could be obtained if the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies were better planned and co-ordinated; and lack of co-ordination would present an insuperable obstacle to progress. Such co-ordination, however, should not be carried out at the expense of the contributions that could be made by the specialized agencies and the regional economic commissions, and should not be regarded as an end in itself. It could best be achieved by avoiding duplication and wasted effort and eliminating unnecessary unproductive expenditure, particularly in connexion with the production of documentation. He agreed with what the Brazilian representative had said on the subject at the 1223rd meeting, and noted that the proliferation of documentation, both visible and behind the scenes, was stifling the constructive work of the United Nations. The existing state of affairs showed that the result of any increase in the staff of the United Nations would be merely to accelerate an already perceptible trend towards a bureaucratic approach and increase the volume of documentation even further. The problem of an overloaded secretariat could be solved not by increasing the staff, but by concentrating activities on projects of truly practical value, eliminating duplication and projects of little practical importance, and fully implementing Council resolution 793 (XXX) and General Assembly resolution 1272 (XIII). The importance of the tasks facing the United Nations and the specialized agencies called for a rationalization of their work and a review of their intricate structures in the interests of the United Nations system as a whole.

10. During the past year, international co-operation had been promoted by the work of the specialized agencies, whose membership had been increased by the admission of a number of new States which had emerged as a result of the disintegration of the colonial system. Those States had been assisted considerably in a number of fields by the specialized agencies. The UNESCO, WHO, WMO and ITU had all taken constructive decisions relating to such varied matters as the social and economic consequences of disarmament, the eradication of illiteracy and the elimination of the consequences of colonialism in the field of health. The WMO and ITU had taken commendable decisions relating to equitable geographical distribution in secretariat posts and in the selection of technical assistance experts.

11. However, the specialized agencies were not yet making an adequate contribution to the practical solution of a number of important problems, such as the liquidation of the colonial system in the fields of education, health and culture, and too much attention was sometimes paid to relatively unimportant matters. The work of UNESCO showed a definite element of favouritism in respect of one group of countries and discrimination against others, and not enough had been done to ensure the equitable geographical distribution of posts. For example, only one of the seventy UNESCO resident experts was a Soviet citizen, and the USSR was inadequately associated with the work being carried out to draw up a ten-year programme for the elimination of illiteracy in the world. The UNESCO was still opposed to co-operation with a number of non-governmental organizations, and its Executive Board, at the sixty-first session, had refused to extend consultative status to many of those organizations, such as the Women's International Democratic Federation and the International Union of Students. That policy of discrimination was having adverse effects on both the work and the authority of UNESCO. Another dangerous trend apparent in UNESCO's work was the agreement it had recently concluded with the OAS for the development of education in the ECLA countries within the framework of the Alliance for Progress. That agreement, which had been signed despite the protests of some member States, was illegal, since in practice it excluded Cuba from the ranks of the beneficiary countries, owing to the fact that Cuba had been expelled from OAS as a result of United States pressure. It was difficult to understand why UNESCO had not concluded the agreement with ECLA, which was, as a result, excluded from participation in United Nations work in that important field. Those short-comings in UNESCO work, however, should not obscure its positive achievements.

12. In WHO, too, the situation with regard to the equitable geographical distribution of posts, particularly with respect to the socialist countries, was still unsatisfactory. Assurances had been given that the situation would be remedied, and he hoped that steps would shortly be taken in that direction. An alarming feature of WHO activities was the fact that its budget had increased three-fold during the period 1958-1962, and serious thought should be given to arresting that trend, since member countries would soon be unable to shoulder

the additional burden, Nor could the increase in WHO staff be justified by the fact that its membership had expanded, since field operations were allocated a minimum amount of funds; the greater part went to support the WHO administrative apparatus, despite the fact that the primary concern should be practical assistance to the developing countries. The position was all the more unsatisfactory as WHO staff were often engaged in dealing with unimportant and non-essential problems and in producing unnecessary documents and reports.

13. The time had come to reorganize the United Nations and the specialized agencies with a view to the elimination of such unproductive activities and archaic arrangements. Such rationalization would prevent the emergence of a bureaucratic system and release considerable funds that could be devoted to practical activities. Duplication of work should also be prevented; for example, separate studies in the field of nutrition were being carried out by WHO, UNICEF and the United Nations and shortly, it appeared, the work of processing foreign trade data carried out by FAO would be duplicated as a result of the establishment of a data processing centre at Headquarters, approved by the Council at the 1216th meeting.

14. The shortcomings in the work of the ILO would, if not remedied in time, seriously hamper its activities. Despite the fact that progress had recently been made in the direction of co-operation, justice and co-existence, the atmosphere in the ILO left much to be desired. For example, discrimination was practised against the socialist countries in the matter of geographical distribution since their nationals held only sixteen minor posts of the 500 on the ILO manning table. Moreover, groupings within the ILO were tending to create an atmosphere of discrimination, enmity and intolerance; that trend had been particularly evident at its recent forty-sixth Conference. A number of delegations representing western countries, using their privileged position in the ILO, had done everything in their power to prevent a study of several important problems, such as the economic and social consequences of disarmament. It was difficult, in those circumstances, for the ILO to contribute to the solution of such problems within the United Nations system. Nor was the improvement in ILO activities commensurate with the rapid increase in its budget, the rate of which doubled every year. Its activities were taking an increasingly dangerous turn, and the situation was one to which the Council should give serious thought.

15. It was a source of satisfaction to note that the ITU and WMO reports on the role they would play in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes were a valuable contribution to international co-operation.

16. In conclusion, he would draw attention to the fact that discrimination was still being practised in all the specialized agencies against the German Democratic Republic, although that country's co-operation could be useful to them in a large number of fields. Such discrimination was contrary to the spirit of the Charter and had adverse effects on international and economic relations.

17. Mr. REVOL (France) said that the general picture painted in the reports of the specialized agencies and in the statements by their representatives was satisfactory. It was perhaps regrettable that only three of the agen-

cies — UNESCO, FAO, WMO — had replied to the specific question addressed to them by the Council (resolution 829 (XXXII)) on main trends of inquiry in the field of natural sciences, and that WHO had merely announced that it would present its comments later. The subject was a most important one, and the Co-ordination Committee, which was to discuss it, would have been assisted in its tasks if it had had a complete list of the priorities which the specialized agencies recommended.

18. The French delegation had already drawn attention to the gratifying diversity of the specialized agencies. The more strictly technical ones, such as UPU, ITU, WMO, ICAO and IMCO, provided real international services, and two of them — WMO and ITU — were fairly closely associated with the work to which agenda item 14(d) on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space related, and were thus intimately concerned with one of the most important questions of the time. The other agencies, which might be called the principal agencies, were faced with certain difficulties by reason of the very extensiveness of their terms of reference, which did not always permit them to concentrate their activities to the same extent as the technical ones could. The report of the *ad hoc* Working Group drew attention to the tendency displayed by some of the principal agencies to intensify their activities in priority fields without at the same time reducing their marginal activities, a tendency for which the governments were as much to blame as the secretariats.

19. The UNESCO was probably the agency which had the greatest difficulties in that connexion owing to the amplitude and relative vagueness of its terms of reference. It was his delegation's view that it would be in the interests of UNESCO to concentrate as much as possible on its primary task, which, apart from the functions in respect of education proper and culture, related essentially to the basic sciences and research. That difficulty had certainly not escaped the attention of the UNESCO authorities, who would like to be released from the demands imposed by specific scientific problems, many of which — like the problems of seismology — fell at the same time within the competence of a number of different organizations. Those problems of seismology were the subject of a remarkable document (E/3617 and Add.1), in the drafting of which UNESCO had played an essential part, but which seemed rather, so far as the scientific aspects were concerned, to fall within the competence of WMO, and, so far as concerned the material aspects such as the adaptation of housing to the dangers resulting from seismic shocks, to be a matter for the United Nations itself.

20. A similar danger threatened FAO, which had so far been preserved from it, partly by the urgency of the material needs which it had to meet. The FAO would be well advised to concentrate on the problems falling essentially within its sphere of competence—that is, agricultural problems. In that connexion, an innovation to be noted with satisfaction was the first joint session of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems and the United Nations Commission on International Commodity Trade.

21. In the case of WHO, the risk of dispersion was less great, since health was a specific problem in itself. The scheme to provide the Congo (Leopoldville) with the medical corps it lacked, an operation in which the French Government was lending its assistance, could perhaps be cited as a model technical undertaking by an international organization.

22. The ILO, which might also be tempted to spread its activities over too wide a field, fortunately had a tripartite structure which gave its organs and the International Labour Conference the status of veritable States General for world labour questions. The ILO took a justifiable interest in industrialization and housing problems, and rightly considered that it should work as closely as possible with the Centre of Industrial Development which was being organized in the United Nations Secretariat.

23. It was the Charter itself which made the Council responsible for co-ordinating the work of the specialized agencies. Currently the Council was assisted in that task by two bodies, ACC and the *ad hoc* Working Group on Co-ordination. The *ad hoc* Working Group, which had been established (Council resolutions 798 (XXX) and 842 (XXXII)) because the Council had been experiencing some difficulty in defining main lines of policy and action, had been preparing the Council's work for two years. It had provided an effective means of overcoming the difficulty, and he paid a tribute to it the more willingly since his delegation had expressed some misgivings at the time of its establishment.

24. As for ACC, the quality of its reports was constantly improving. In his delegation's view, it was that Committee which should be the body normally consulted by the Council in its task of co-ordination, and credit was due to the *ad hoc* Working Group for having assisted ACC in defining its true function.

25. The *ad hoc* Working Group suggested, however, that in view of the establishment of the Committee of Eight, its work might be over. But the Committee of Eight, established under Council resolution 851 (XXXII), had been set up to deal with a limited problem and could not possibly duplicate the *ad hoc* Group, whose task was broader, covering all the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. With reference to the suggestions made on that subject at earlier meetings by the delegations of Japan, the United States, Australia and Denmark, the French delegation wondered whether it was necessary to set up a new body, which would put another screen between the Council and the matters for which it was responsible. If the establishment of an *ad hoc* body proved necessary, perhaps the *ad hoc* Working Group could be given new terms of reference and requested to deal more particularly with the problems of the Development Decade. The Council should not pass on to another body a task with which it had been entrusted by the Charter.

26. There were three matters to which special attention should be given at the current session. First of all came the Development Decade, which would draw upon the resources of the whole United Nations family and should trigger off a reaction against dispersion of effort. The history of the bodies established under United

Nations auspices showed a gradual shifting of their centre of interest towards what had become a major problem of the day—namely under-development. The novelty of that problem had made it necessary to gain experience, diversify the forms of assistance and consequently establish more and more bodies to provide them. The programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies had been affected by that somewhat empirical approach and it had not always been possible to avoid overlapping. The Development Decade provided an opportunity for reconsidering the use made of the means available to the United Nations for contributing to the development of the less favoured countries.

27. Next came the problems of science and technology, which had assumed increasing importance since 1957, when the Australian delegation had launched the idea of a survey of the main trends in scientific research. By its inventions, mankind was acquiring a prodigious material power which gave to activities which in themselves were traditional an unbounded influence on daily life and mental outlook. It was of interest to consider the importance attached to the actual use of the instruments with which mankind was thus provided. The utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes was still a negative concept, which should be replaced by a positive idea around which the work of the United Nations, so far as principles and human rights were concerned, and the work of UNESCO and the technical agencies, could be effectively co-ordinated.

28. Lastly, all countries needed a vertical system of intercommunication which would enable the impulses given from above to be effective down to the base. In that context, public administration was of primary importance. The reports of the two consultants (E/3630) showed to what extent the idea of public administration pervaded the programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Public administration provided an ideal terrain for co-ordinated action by the various United Nations organs and the specialized agencies, for the spirit instilled into it would enable all the problems of the developing countries to fall into orderly relationship to a specific reality. The OPEX programme called for special co-ordination in order to ensure that full weight was given to the increasingly important part which should be played in that field by the specialized agencies.

29. The pitfalls which the United Nations family must try to avoid were, first, the ever-present danger of proliferation which constantly threatened to stifle international action beneath the weight of a tangled mass of committees. The temptation to set up a committee or working party whenever a difficulty cropped up must be resisted except in case of real need, and only essential questions must be addressed to the secretariats. In return, the secretariats could be asked the more insistently to restrict the volume of documentation, so that documents could be issued in good time and usefully considered.

30. It was also necessary to be on the alert against internal disintegration: as in the human body, the organs must be closely connected to the brain by links identical with those of the nervous system. The value of links between United Nations agencies and bodies—that is, on the

horizontal plane — had already been stressed, and vertical linkage was even more essential. An international organization must not be a mosaic of more or less independent sub-organizations: it must constitute a homogeneous body, the functions of whose parts centred harmoniously around a statute and a precise objective.

31. The United Nations and the specialized agencies — with the possible exception of the ILO — must be on their guard against another danger due to their more or less conscious tendency to isolate themselves from the real forces constantly at work on the national, regional, continental and world levels. The remedy there was provided by the non-governmental organizations. It might be both possible and useful to strengthen the contacts between the various agencies and the non-governmental organizations, and in some cases, the non-governmental organizations could be even more actively associated in the surveys or studies which the secretariats were requested to make. That would provide a means of avoiding the kind of isolation with which United Nations organizations were threatened, and perhaps also the proliferation of new bodies.

32. Mr. HIGGINS (Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization) introduced his organization's report (E/3632), which recorded the progress made by IMCO up to May 1962. His organization had suffered a severe loss in the death of its Secretary-General, Mr. Ove Nielsen, in November 1961. The IMCO Council, which would meet in October 1962, would consider candidates put forward by governments for the post; in accordance with the provisions of the IMCO Convention, any appointment by the organization's Council required subsequent ratification by the IMCO Assembly.

33. Since the report had been completed, the membership of IMCO had increased to fifty-one, plus one joint associate member (Sarawak and North Borneo). The IMCO had continued to maintain close contacts with the United Nations and all specialized agencies whose work programmes were linked with its own. Technical co-ordination with ICAO, ITU and WMO had been particularly close in connexion with the problem of co-ordination of safety at sea and in the air. The first working group of the four agencies had met on 30 April 1962.

34. It had been possible to organize a working group on facilitation of travel and simplification of ships' papers coming within the scope of the forthcoming United Nations conference on international travel and tourism. The first meeting of the working group would take place in November 1962 and it was hoped that simplified procedures for customs, immigration and health requirements would in due course be devised and recommended to governments.

35. The 1960 Conference on the Safety of Life at Sea had made a number of recommendations regarding the organization's work; it now had a fully organized work programme in the field of maritime safety, and various groups of experts had begun to examine the outstanding problems.

36. Co-operation with other specialized agencies had continued; for example, FAO was co-operating with the working group dealing with the impact stability of ships.

37. An international Conference on the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil had been held in London in March and April 1962; it had reviewed the articles of the 1954 Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, from which the duties and responsibilities of IMCO on the subject were derived. The 1962 conference had extended the Convention to cover more classes of ships than before: all tankers down to small ones of 150 tons had been brought completely within the Convention. Secondly, governments had agreed to apply the provisions of the Convention, as far as was reasonable and practicable, to all their ships of whatever size, as also to their naval vessels. Thirdly, the principle that ships must in no circumstances discharge oil into the sea had been accepted. Fourthly, the requirement that reception facilities should be made available for waste oil from dry cargo ships had been extended to cover facilities at ship repair ports and for tankers at oil loading terminals.

38. The most important achievement of the conference, however, had been the great expansion of the zones in which oil must not be discharged into the sea. The prohibited zones around certain countries which had existed under the 1954 Convention had been extended and certain new sea areas had been added.

39. The conference had also adopted fifteen resolutions, the most important of which reaffirmed that the ultimate goal must be the complete avoidance, as soon as practicable, of the discharge of persistent oils into the sea.

40. The amendments to the 1954 Convention agreed upon by the conference were being recommended for adoption by the governments concerned at the earliest possible date.

41. Lastly, he wished to draw attention to the expanded publications programme of IMCO and express the conviction of the IMCO Council that IMCO would play an increasingly useful part in the general scheme of international co-operation, particularly in so far as it affected the progress and development of all matters coming within the maritime technical field.

42. Mr. KOPCOK (Yugoslavia) said that co-ordination, which was already necessary in view of the increasing decentralization, would become still more so with the Development Decade.

43. With the opening of the Decade, planning was essential and it called for a comprehensive view of the extent and structure of future development in order to determine what services, particularly in the developing countries, were necessary to ensure healthy economic expansion and a balanced development in the social sphere. The number of documents published on co-ordination gave the impression that the organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies had already tackled the problems and had recently obtained some results.

44. To ensure the success of the Decade, it was essential to begin by studying all aspects of economic and social development and to reach agreement on the respective competence of the various organs. The study made some years earlier on prospects for 1960-1964¹ was

¹ *Five-year perspective, 1960-1964*, United Nations publication, Sales No. 60.IV.14 (E/3347/Rev.1).

useful because it made it possible to consider the problems on a long-term basis. The strengthening of regional co-operation at the level of the economic commissions would also help considerably to guide the work of the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies in the desired direction. Agreement must also be reached on those spheres where needs were most urgent and possibilities of co-operation greatest; they were: international trade, on which a conference should be held, and international financing of economic development. It should also be recalled that, in his report on the Decade (E/3613 and Corr.2), the Secretary-General stated that the realization of its aims depended on the intensification of international co-operation designed to speed up industrial development in the less developed countries. That view was shared by the Yugoslav delegation and by the developing countries which were trying to diversify their economy.

45. In view of the extent and complexity of the problems raised by co-ordination, the Yugoslav delegation approved of the practice of setting up committees to deal with it before the Council's session, such as the *ad hoc* Working Group and the Committee of Eight. Owing, however, to the new elements which had entered into international co-operation and as a result of certain proposals, it was ready to define, before the Co-ordination Committee, its attitude towards any procedural changes which might prove to be necessary.

46. The harmonizing of the policies of the specialized agencies was a necessary condition for the success of the United Nations, but it would be desirable to go further and to envisage greater flexibility in those policies and modifications in the statutes of the agencies. With regard to co-ordination of United Nations programmes with bilateral programmes outside the organization, there was no point in looking for general solutions applicable to all the recipient countries: it would be better to allow the countries concerned complete latitude to solve the question in whatever manner seemed best to them.

47. Mr. PASCUCIRIGHI (Italy) said that the Italian Government was satisfied with the increasing care and attention which the Council was giving to co-ordination. It was admittedly a complex task in view of the variety of the elements making up the United Nations family, each with its own programme and philosophy. That variety was a guarantee of the desired flexibility but it demanded vigorous efforts both to eliminate duplication of work and to harmonize the policies of the various organs. The Italian Government, realizing how necessary it was that those efforts should be successful, had appreciated at its true value the report of ACC and the annual reports of the specialized agencies and other organs, just as it had given serious consideration to the decisions of the Council and the General Assembly, particularly the resolution on the Development Decade (1710 (XVI)). It was in fact convinced that the Decade was a new element which would have a profound influence on the economic and social aspects of United Nations work, particularly in connexion with a better concerted co-operation and the prevention of duplication of work and dissipation of activities.

48. Mr. PASTORI (Uruguay), while commending the

reports before the Council, wished to draw attention to an omission in the reports submitted by ACC and the *ad hoc* Working Group. The relevant parts of those reports showed that both ACC and the Working Group, and indeed the Council itself, considered that co-ordination was essential in respect of four matters: rural development, industrialization, education and training, and public administration. There appeared to be a serious gap in that list: co-ordination was necessary in respect of international trade, a matter of the greatest importance and one in which several different United Nations bodies were engaged.

49. The problem of international trade was particularly important because of its universal character and it was clear that, as indicated by the Colombian delegation at the 1215th meeting when item 4 had been discussed, it had not received all the attention it deserved.

50. The Council's Commission on International Commodity Trade, the regional economic commissions and various groups of experts were engaged in work on international trade. The reports on co-ordination, however, had not dealt with the important question of the co-ordination of that work. In view of the seriousness of the problem, the Council should give special attention to the question and call for co-ordination of all United Nations activities on international trade.

51. Another problem was that of the determination of priorities. It was obvious that difficulties would arise if no agreement were reached on the manner of establishing priorities. He agreed with the views the Australian representative had expressed at the 1224th meeting on the question of technical priorities but did not concur with him fully on the priorities for aims or objectives; where those priorities were of international concern, whether regional or worldwide, it was for the Council to lay down rules for their determination.

52. The importance of international trade for the Development Decade had been recognized in the Secretary-General's report (E/3613 and Corr.2) but the subject had not been covered in that report; he would recall that ECLA had been unable to study the question owing to lack of funds.

53. Following a recent meeting of two European Heads of State, one of them had emphasized the importance to the world economy of the 102 million inhabitants represented by the two countries. He would recall that the Latin American countries had a total population of 180 million, all of them directly affected by the problem of international trade as were also the developing countries of Africa and Asia. The Council should give that worldwide problem serious consideration.

54. In conclusion, he would urge the Council to recommend that, to the list of four substantive subjects for consideration by ACC, should be added a fifth — that of international trade.

55. Mr. HILL (Deputy Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs), replying to a question asked by the Polish representative at the 1224th meeting, said that detailed information on the nationality of the resident representatives was given in a document submitted to the *ad hoc* Committee (E/AC.49/R.2/Add.6). The fifty

resident representatives on the rolls or in the process of appointment on 15 November 1961 were nationals of twenty-six countries: seven were from the United States, five from France, four each from Canada and the United Kingdom, three each from Chile and Pakistan. Nineteen were nationals of European countries, eleven from North America, nine each from the Far East and Latin America and two from Africa. Thirty of the fifty were from countries which had been classified as economically developed; twenty were from economically under-developed countries. He had been informed by

the Executive Chairman of TAB that that information was still correct. A fifty-first resident representative had, however, been appointed, and he was a national of the Soviet Union.

56. The PRESIDENT declared the general debate on item 3 closed, and proposed that the item be referred to the Co-ordination Committee for detailed discussion.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.