



CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|------|
| Agenda item 10: | |
| Reports of the regional economic commissions (<i>continued</i>) | 11 |
| Agenda item 24: | |
| Non-governmental organizations | |
| Report of the Council Committee on Non-governmental Organizations on applications for hearings | 16 |

President : Mr. J. MICHALOWSKI (Poland).

Present :

Representatives of the following States: Australia, 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, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Romania, Spain, Sweden.

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, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Health Organization.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Reports of the regional economic commissions (E/3581/Rev.1, E/3584, E/3586, E/3599 and Corr.2, E/3643, E/3649, E/3664; E/L.953 and Corr.1) (*continued*)

1. Mr. GARDINER, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa, introducing the Commission's report (E/3586) and drawing attention to the memorandum from Spain (E/L.953 and Corr.1), stressed the rapid growth in the membership and activities of ECA since its inception, a growth which had been particularly marked in the past twelve months.

2. Considerable progress was being achieved in dealing with the Commission's key problem of recruiting more staff, particularly a higher proportion of Africans at senior levels and a larger number of officers with experience in the Secretariat. At its fourth session (February-March 1962), the Commission had adopted resolution 51 (IV)

on staff recruitment and training, establishing a standing committee to examine the recruitment and staff training difficulties of the Commission's secretariat and to assist the Executive Secretary in establishing and implementing a long-range programme of africanization. That process of africanization, however, would not be effected at the expense of efficiency; the Commission counted on a realistic contribution of manpower from its member States, which alone had the pool of qualified Africans on which the Commission could hope to draw.

3. The Commission had already engaged in an impressive volume of activities, as judged by the number of meetings at Addis Abbaba and by the number of visits of staff members to almost all the States members of the Commission. He warned, however, against the tendency to overload the Commission's programme of work; the Commission should relate its proposed programme for a given year to the total resources available for that year, and the Secretariat's performance should be judged in the light of its potential.

4. The major problem facing Africa was how to promote economic development at a pace rapid enough to bring economic progress into step with the great political changes which had taken place. The new African governments were fully aware of that problem and the Commission was doing its best to assist them in their difficult task. In that connexion, he noted with satisfaction that the United Nations Development Decade was opening at a time when there was an increasing awareness among persons in authority in Africa of the need to devise methods and policies to accelerate economic growth.

5. In regard to the decisions on decentralization which had been adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and ECA itself, decentralization was essentially a practical problem. The Commission was already playing a role, and expected to do so increasingly, in the formulation of technical assistance programmes as well as in the production of substantive advice and in the execution of projects. Of particular importance in that respect were the regional advisers who had been appointed in certain fields.

6. As in previous years, the main emphasis in the Commission's work had been on the techniques of economic planning and development. In January 1962, a working party on economic and social development had met at the Commission's headquarters (E/3586, para 21); it was the first full conference to be held of members and associate members of the Commission on that important subject and it had permitted a valuable exchange of views on the problems in planning facing the participants and the solutions to those problems which were contemplated or which had been found adequate.

7. One of the most important problems common to the emergent States of Africa, however, remained that of building up an adequately trained national personnel capable of dealing with the planning and the implementation of development programmes. Most African countries still relied on the services of expatriate advisers. With the assistance of the United Nations Secretariat, ECA had been able to sponsor the establishment of four training centres for African statisticians.

8. In 1961, the ECA secretariat had devoted particular attention to preliminary work on the establishment of an African institute for development and planning (*ibid.*, paras. 25-33). Pursuant to a decision adopted by the Commission at its fourth session (resolution 58 (IV)), the institute would be established at Dakar in the summer of 1963 and its courses would begin in the autumn of that year. The institute would have three main functions: training, research, and the provision of advisory services to member countries. Initially, research would concentrate on the compilation of a body of specific knowledge on African problems which could serve as teaching material and make it possible to relate as closely as possible to the actual conditions prevailing in the region.

9. Another major project was the preliminary work on the establishment of an African development bank pursuant to resolution 27 (III) of the Commission (*ibid.*, paras. 34-37). A panel of experts had met in 1961 and had reported favourably on that project; it had advised that the total operations of the bank should be of the order of magnitude of \$800-\$1,000 million over five years and that African States should contribute at least half the share capital and hold the majority of votes. The establishment of a bank of that size would require more exploratory work and also an attitude of understanding on the part of those countries which were in a position to help African countries in that respect. At its fourth session (*ibid.*, paras. 224-227), ECA had set up a Committee of nine member countries with the task of establishing the necessary governmental and other contacts, of making further studies on the financial and administrative structure of the proposed bank and of drafting a charter. That Committee had met at Monrovia in June 1962. Four teams of experts had been organized, three of them to undertake more detailed negotiations with African governments and a fourth to explore the possibilities of assistance in Europe and the United States of America.

10. Economic development, particularly in a region like Africa, could not be divorced from social development. Accordingly, from its inception, one of the basic tenets of the philosophy of the Commission had been that both types of development should be dealt with simultaneously. Through various meetings and seminars, as well as through advisory services rendered to governments, an effort had been made to assist African countries to strike a balance between the two aspects of development and to evolve patterns of balanced economic and social growth. Certain changes would also be introduced in the organizational structure of the ECA secretariat to ensure that the two aspects of development were handled in a more integrated manner.

11. The criticism had been expressed that as yet the Com-

mission had done only limited work in the field of industry, transport and natural resources. He could report that a start had been made with regard to transport: a successful conference of ministers of transport had been held at Monrovia in the autumn of 1961, and a similar conference would take place at Addis Abbaba in November 1962 to cover East Africa. The Commission had also adopted at its fourth session a substantial programme of work in that field.

12. At its fourth session, the Commission had, by resolution 43 (IV), established a Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Industrialization, the first meeting of which would be held at Addis Abbaba in December 1962. A survey of the industrial situation in Africa was being prepared and specific suggestions for the expansion of existing industries and the development of new industries, wherever possible on a subregional basis, would be formulated.

13. The Commission continued to devote attention to problems of trade, which were particularly important to Africa. More exploratory work was needed on such subjects as the promotion of intra-African trade which, to some extent, depended on the pace of industrialization, but which had to be viewed as a condition for the industrialization of the region. Some of the barriers which hampered trade between west African countries had been examined and discussed with the governments concerned, and the experience gained seemed to indicate that the subregional approach might prove fruitful in some instances.

14. Another important problem facing the African governments was the impact of west European economic groupings on Africa. Fears had been expressed that the association of a number of African countries with EEC might be detrimental to intra-African co-operation. Moreover, the African countries not associated with the Community would probably face increasing difficulties in finding outlets for their products in one of the world's largest markets, in so far as they competed with the same products or substitutes from the associated countries. At a time when both the short-and longer-term prospects for many commodities were not at all promising, it was natural to fear that the gains of the associated countries might be accompanied by corresponding losses by the non-associated African primary producers.

15. Trade problems in Africa, as in other less developed regions, could not be divorced from the questions of primary commodity prices. The situation in the world commodity markets continued to be characterized by persistent surpluses in a number of important commodities and by further declines in prices, leading to a further deterioration in the terms of trade of primary producing countries. The Commission was fully aware that it could do but little in isolation in the matter of primary commodity prices and it had repeatedly stressed the need for world-wide action. It was studying the African aspects of the primary commodity problems and, with the assistance of the United Nations Secretariat and of FAO, it was preparing a meeting to be held at Lagos for the discussion of concerted national and international action; it was thought that direct contacts between African producers and a closer examination of the situation of individual

commodities would be of benefit to member countries of ECA.

16. He paid a tribute to the pioneering work of his predecessor, Mr. Mekki Abbas, and thanked his Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Ethiopia, and the Government of Ethiopia for their hospitality to ECA.

17. Mr. MELLER-CONRAD (Poland) said that his delegation fully understood the interest aroused by problems of the proper apportionment of functions among the organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the matter of international co-operation in the economic and social fields. Recent decisions of the General Assembly and its organs concerning decentralization showed that the Organization had passed from the stage of theoretical study to the more advanced phase of practical work. Accordingly, the regional economic commissions should receive prominence, for they were best qualified to translate projects into practice.

18. The Secretary-General's report on decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations and strengthening of the regional economic commissions (E/3643), prepared in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI), and the reports of the regional economic commissions, showed that ECA, ECLA and ECAFE had taken action which not only strengthened their role at the regional level, but also contributed to world development. Thus, they had reacted rapidly and positively to the General Assembly's decision on the study of economic planning techniques.

19. In connexion with planning, the regional commissions had to play a pioneering role, which would involve adapting to the conditions of Asian, African and Latin American countries the theoretical knowledge and practical experience of other countries. Although it was true that assistance organized at the regional level would be the most efficient way of training national planners and establishing national planning institutes, it was none the less necessary to form close contacts between those institutes and the planning centres and institutes of regions such as Europe, which already had much experience in that sphere. Poland was prepared to participate actively in exchanges of experience and assistance, both by sending its own experts and by offering study facilities in its institutions of higher education.

20. Although the programme of work submitted by the Secretariat took into account the possibilities of ECAFE, ECA and ECLA, it was too narrow where ECE was concerned. That seemed to indicate a tendency to underestimate the importance of ECE to the other three commissions and to general economic and social development.

21. The ECE was the only organ of economic co-operation to which all European countries, regardless of differences in social and political system, belonged. The reason why it represented a "special case" (E/3643, para. 14) was that it served an economically highly developed region, which was traversed by the line of contact between the two different social and political systems. Since the Soviet Union and the United States were both members of the Commission, it was partly responsible for moulding the economic, technical and scientific relations between

East and West, between the socialist and the capitalist countries. The economic development of Europe was obviously its main task, but if it was weak and divided it could not come to the assistance either of Europe or of the rest of the world, which had a right to expect its help.

22. Realizing that that should be the role of the ECE, the Polish delegation with several others had submitted to the Commission a draft resolution (ECE (XVII)/L.20) concerning a programme for carrying out the recommendations of Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI), but had been obliged to withdraw the draft in view of the opposition of a number of western countries. Nevertheless, the adoption of that resolution in ECE would encourage direct co-operation between that body and the other three commissions; that co-operation would also be promoted by extending the right of the secretariats of those commissions to settle questions relating to plans of common interest.

23. The ECE projects relating to specific problems of economic and social development were of special interest for the execution of similar or even new projects in other regions. In particular, there were the studies prepared by the ECE committees dealing with steel and coal production, transport, electric power, agricultural problems and housing. The experience gained from such meetings as the Warsaw Symposium on Rationalization of Electric Power Consumption might be adapted to the needs of other regional economic commissions. He praised the initiative taken by the ECE secretariat with regard to programming and planning techniques in countries with different social and economic systems, which would certainly benefit other regional economic commissions. He also noted with satisfaction the study on factors of economic growth in Europe from 1950 to 1960, the research into problems of European integration and its effects on the economic development of less developed countries and the inquiry into the development of agricultural production in Europe and of trade between that continent and the developing countries.

24. It would be premature to consider the effects of decentralization on technical programmes in greater detail, since TAC was to examine the report of the *ad hoc* Committee of Eight on that subject (E/3639). Nevertheless, and without going into detail, he thought that the Secretary-General's report dealt with the subject superficially and limited the action of ECE in that respect to a surprising extent. And yet ECE had particularly extensive opportunities for helping the other regional economic commissions. Apart from the projects of its committees, with which the secretariats of other regional commissions might be associated, it had facilities for in-service training: it was especially qualified to give such practical assistance and it should expand its action in that respect. Furthermore, it was in a position to give advice and to lend the services of experts to other regional commissions in certain branches of activity.

25. It was regrettable that those possibilities had not been taken into account with preparation of the report. He expressed the hope that that omission would soon be remedied and that the General Assembly at its seventeenth session would have before it a report on the implementation of resolution 1709 (XVI) with regard

to ECE. For, if the essential role of ECE were ignored, there would be some risk of prejudicing the effects of the entire decision of the General Assembly concerning decentralization and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions in addition to the implementation of the United Nations Development Decade.

26. Mr. DIOP (Senegal), referring to ECA resolutions 42 and 44 (IV) recommending that Portugal and the Republic of South Africa be deprived of their membership of the Commission, said that no doubt the Republic of South Africa would not fail to point out that the conditions under which the indigenous Africans lived in its territory were better in every respect than those under which the citizens of the newly independent black republics were living. Yet, though the living standard of those Africans might be enviable, they had been deprived of their fundamental human rights before the law, as well as of their dignity and honour. That was why the delegation of Senegal, in keeping with the view it had upheld at the General Assembly, considered that, in the interest of international peace and security, the United Nations should use all means of pressure available to induce South Africa to change its policy.

27. Similarly, his delegation considered that everything should be done to persuade Portugal to put a stop as soon as possible to the genocidal action it was undertaking in Portuguese Guinea, in Angola and, doubtless, in Mozambique. He had in mind the case of certain chiefs delegated by the province of Cabinda to submit a list of complaints to the authorities; they had been imprisoned, and some days later their bodies, tied up in sacks, had been washed up on the seashore.

28. By their conduct, South Africa and Portugal were violating the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in addition to General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples; there was therefore no place for them in the United Nations. His delegation would accordingly vote for the adoption of the ECA recommendations, although it considered them too moderate; the right course would be simply to exclude South Africa and Portugal.

29. Mr. ARKADEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the regional economic commissions were important members of the United Nations family; they offered an admirable opportunity for promoting economic and social co-operation between countries with common interests, with due regard for the interests of countries in other regions.

30. During the past few years, the developing countries had been playing an increasing part in the work of ECLA, ECAFE and ECA. The results of the work of the commissions were most valuable, — for example, ECAFE resolution 37 (XVIII) on international trade, and the resolutions adopted respectively by that commission and by ECA on the establishment of economic development institutes. The basic purpose of those resolutions was to focus attention on methods of offsetting the adverse effects of closed economic groupings such as the European Common Market, to promote and rationalize international trade and to expand regional economic, scientific and technical co-operation.

31. The USSR would support every effort to convene an international conference to study trade problems and to strengthen the regional commissions. It was prepared, through contributions to the Special Fund and the technical assistance programmes, to assist the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America in the establishment of economic development institutes and to help such institutes in a number of ways; it could lend scientific workers and experts, offer advice on programmes and exchange experience on the subject of planning.

32. Nevertheless, despite the economic progress being made by the developing countries, the gap separating them from the industrialized countries was widening steadily; for that reason the part played by the regional commissions in offering practical assistance to the less developed countries in the implementation of their economic development plans should be increased. In that connexion, mention should be made of the valuable contribution made by the Executive Secretary of ECAFE to the development of regional co-operation and practical activities. The Council should recommend that the regional commissions should undertake a detailed study of the long-term tasks facing them and submit suggestions on methods of rationalizing future work.

33. At the seventeenth session of ECE, the Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations had referred to the contribution that could be made by that commission to the less fortunate countries of the world (E/3584, annex III). For example, it was of the utmost importance to arrange exchanges of information and experience between the original commissions; in that way, joint studies could be undertaken of planning problems, the development of the public sector, land reform, inter-regional and international trade, the training of personnel and many other matters.

34. It was not surprising that some countries were showing impatience at the delay in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1518 (XV) on the decentralization of the United Nations economic and social activities and strengthening of the regional economic commissions, since very little had been done since its adoption. Judging from the report by the Secretary-General on the subject, the future action envisaged was inadequate. What was required, in his delegation's opinion, was a transfer of a number of posts from United Nations Headquarters to the regional commissions. However, paragraph 12 of that document indicated that, although thirty-seven new posts were being requested for the regional secretariats, an additional twenty-six new posts were being requested for Headquarters. Nor did the explanation of that action given in paragraph 20 appear satisfactory in view of the consideration that, as the regional commissions were assuming new functions, they should be strengthened and their staff increased accordingly.

35. Steps should also be taken to strengthen the regional commissions for the purpose of technical assistance activities on behalf of developing countries. Decentralization should ensure a fuller utilization of the technical and scientific knowledge of personnel from all countries, including socialist countries. That was far from being the case, however, owing to the bureaucratic approach

adopted by Headquarters and some of the specialized agencies. For example, had the regional commissions been consulted about the projects listed in the annex to the Secretary-General's report? If the regional commissions were really to be strengthened, they should be entrusted with the task of examining technical assistance and Special Fund projects, of supervising their implementation, and given control over technical assistance exports and over TAB regional representatives. Another step in the right direction would be to make the executive secretaries of the regional commissions members of TAB and of the Governing Council of the Special Fund, since their participation in those bodies would make it possible to take into account the requirements of the developing countries and to draw up practical programmes. Similarly, a transfer of posts from TAB, the Special Fund and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at Headquarters to the regional commissions would ensure that the staff actually responsible for providing assistance would be associated more closely with the recipient countries; a transfer of that nature would also reduce administrative expenses. All those measures would help to strengthen the economic activities of the regional commissions and would serve the interests of the developing countries.

36. As to the work of ECE, the Executive Secretary at the seventeenth session had stressed the need for ever closer international co-operation in almost every branch of human activity (E/3584, annex II). His delegation attached great importance to the principle of the universality of the United Nations and to co-operation between all countries, regardless of their economic and social system, and for that reason had urged that representatives of the German Democratic Republic should be invited to participate in the Commission's work. That problem was one which should be settled on an equitable basis in order to put an end to the discrimination being practised against that country.

37. In connexion with the other suggestions and proposals made by his delegation at the Commission's seventeenth session, he reiterated its view that ECE should take urgent steps to remove the obstacles hampering the expansion of intra-European trade. The USSR had also suggested that the Executive Secretary should examine the possibility of helping other regional commissions by assigning experts from States members of ECE. Unfortunately, delegations of certain western countries had shown unwillingness to support such useful activities. Indeed, one important country had implied that the Commission's activities were limited by the existence of political and other factors and of countries with different economic and social systems, and had furthermore questioned the possibility of expanding co-operation within the framework of the Commission. Yet, surely all United Nations activities were based on the recognition of the existence of countries with different economic and social systems, and of the need for co-operation and peaceful co-existence. To deny that basic principle was to strike at the very foundations of the United Nations. The USSR believed that ECE should strengthen its activities, encourage co-operation between all countries and ensure that no polarization, either political or economic, occurred in Europe.

38. In his admirable statement (1210th meeting), the Executive Secretary of ECLA had rightly stressed the important problem raised by the possible adverse effects of the European Common Market on the production and trade of the less developed countries. The Soviet Union delegation wholeheartedly supported the memorandum submitted by the Brazilian delegation (E/3664) emphasizing the need to increase the role of the regional commissions in planning the economic development of their respective regions. However, he was surprised to learn from the ECLA report (E/3581/Rev.1, para. 248) that the *Economic Survey of Latin America* would in future be prepared jointly with OAS, a political body having no connexion with the United Nations. It was doubtful whether that arrangement would work to the advantage of the Latin American countries, since the *Economic Survey* would no longer be an objective document and would include politically biased views.

39. The ECA had taken a most important decision at its fourth session in adopting its resolution 42 (IV). The recommendation that certain countries should be deprived of membership of ECA, a recommendation supported by the Soviet Union delegation, was the answer to the oppressive measures carried out by certain countries against Africans. Moreover, Belgium, France and the United Kingdom, which under that resolution would become associate members, could continue to participate effectively in the work of ECA on the basis of that arrangement. The decision reached should be viewed in the light of the changes taking place in Africa, the desire of the African peoples to manage their own affairs and to restrict the role of the former colonial Powers in view of what were, at times, bitter memories.

40. Mr. BOGLIETTI (World Federation of Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that WFTU had already described, at the sessions of the regional economic commissions, the problems which economic development posed for the workers and trade unions in the different regions of the world.

41. The WFTU had drawn attention, particularly in ECA and ECAFE, to the absence of any improvement in the position of the under-developed countries which were producers of primary commodities; the gap between those countries and the industrialized countries was growing wider, development affected only certain countries and industries, and the resources of the countries to which he was referring were still being drained off towards the metropolitan countries.

42. He would reiterate the view of WFTU that the regions in question stood in need of rapid industrialization and of the heavy industry which was essential for sustained growth and true economic independence. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat would carry out promptly the measures recommended by General Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI) and by the Economic and Social Council's resolution 823 (XXXII) for the purpose of helping ECAFE, ECLA and ECA to satisfy the needs of their regions. The secretariats of the commissions had an important part to play in that connexion and in directing the flow of international technical assistance. In particular, WFTU supported ECA resolution 50 (IV) and the corresponding resolutions of ECAFE and ECLA.

43. Hoping that the regional economic commissions and the Council would note the point, he urged that the trade unions and the workers should be associated with economic planning. In conclusion, the Council's adoption of the four draft resolutions submitted by ECA would decisively strengthen the authority of the Council and of the United Nations in Africa. The peoples of Africa and the workers of the world would be unable to understand how, at a time when the Republic of Algeria was becoming a reality, the policy of racial supremacy, which had done so much harm to mankind for thirty years, should persist.

AGENDA ITEM 24

Non-governmental organizations

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON APPLICATIONS FOR HEARINGS (E/3666)

44. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the recommendations of the Committee in its report regarding the applications for hearings by six non-governmental organizations in category A.

The Committee's recommendations were adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.