



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Thirty-fourth session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

1213th meeting

Friday, 6 July 1962

at 3.15 p.m.

PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 10:	
Reports of the regional economic commissions (<i>continued</i>)	25

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, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Greece, Iraq, Ireland, Mali, Romania, Spain.

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, 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 and Corr.1, E/3586, E/3599 and Corr.2, E/3643, E/3649, E/3664; E/L.953 and Corr.1, E/L.956) (*continued*)

1. Mr. KAKITSUBO (Japan) said that ECE, ECAFE and ECLA had become centres of economic co-operation in their respective regions, and it was gratifying to learn that ECA had become a going concern. All the regional commissions had assumed an increasing amount of responsibility as a result of the decentralization of the United Nations economic and social activities, and his delegation was gratified that the process of decentralization and the strengthening of the regional commissions had been carried out without hampering the activities reserved to Headquarters. The regional commissions should not be strengthened by crippling Headquarters, and the purpose of decentralization was to make the most efficient use of the limited resources available to the United Nations for the purpose of promoting the

economic and social advancement of the developing countries in each region. In that connexion, his delegation noted with satisfaction the statement contained in the first sentence of paragraph 1 of the report of the Secretary-General on decentralization (E/3643), and hoped that the process of decentralization and the strengthening of the regional commissions would be continued on the basis of that realistic policy.

2. It was encouraging to note that the importance of economic planning for the effective mobilization and utilization of the limited human and material resources available had been generally recognized, especially in the developing countries. It was now also generally admitted that foreign technical and financial aid could be used most effectively when incorporated into sound economic programmes. For that reason, it was gratifying to note that the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning had been established in Santiago on the basis of assistance from the Special Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank, to train local experts in economic and social planning and to advise member States on the formulation and implementation of development programmes. Similar bodies were envisaged for the ECAFE and ECA regions, and his delegation was convinced that their activities would greatly facilitate the preparation of well-balanced development programmes by individual countries and of joint programmes for the regions concerned.

3. Japan set great store by the proposed Asian institute for economic development, and would take an active part in the preparatory meeting to be held in Bangkok in August to decide upon the institute's functions and budget. His delegation earnestly hoped that the institute would contribute to the promotion of co-operation in the ECAFE region and to economic development through the adoption, as far as possible, of a regional planning approach. In that respect, Japan had full confidence in the Executive Secretary of ECAFE and his colleagues, but considered that, in order to enable them better to discharge their heavy responsibilities, the staff of ECAFE should be strengthened.

4. Referring to resolution 42 (IV) adopted by ECA, he noted that the reasons for depriving Spain of membership seemed to have disappeared in view of that country's expressed willingness to co-operate with the Commission (E/L.953 and Corr.1). Although his delegation had no strong feelings concerning the proposal to accord associate member status to countries outside the ECA region, he would recall the tradition established in 1951 by ECAFE under the Lahore convention, in accordance with which countries from outside the region which were members of the Commission refrained from voting against any proposals which predominantly affected the interests of

countries of the region. If that formula were acceptable to member States of ECA, countries from outside the ECA region could retain their present full membership without causing undue apprehension to the African members. He urged ECA to consider the matter further at its fifth session and to seek a solution acceptable not only to the African countries, but also to those non-African countries which were willing to co-operate with the Commission.

5. Mr. ROSENSTAND HANSEN (Denmark) said that the increasingly important role being played by the regional economic commissions within the United Nations was due both to the process of decentralization and to the fact that the problems facing each commission were peculiar to the region for which it was responsible and could be dealt with advantageously only by persons who were familiar with the nature and scope of such problems. Additional qualifications required to cope with such problems were frequently acquired through participation in the work of similar regional organizations or other international bodies, and he recalled that persons from the developing countries had in recent years served as internes in the ECE secretariat.

6. However, general planning and policy-making had to be carried out by the central bodies of the United Nations, namely, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in which the developing countries could discuss their problems with the industrialized countries with the object of evolving well-balanced programmes for the regional commissions. The best guidance in the preparation of programmes of assistance to the developing countries, however, was offered by the discussions which took place in ECLA, ECAFE and ECA themselves.

7. The seventeenth session of ECE had been a satisfactory one, but the most useful and productive work carried out within the framework of the Commission was done by its technical committees. Some of the results of their work, such as the statistical and other information on trade and technical problems, were extremely useful to the governments of member countries in their day-to-day work. Moreover, the seventeenth session had shown that co-operation between the countries of eastern and western Europe was possible if both sides were willing to make progress in fields where common interests were greater than the issues dividing them. His delegation hoped that the problems raised by the existence of different economic systems in Europe would be solved step by step and that trade between the countries of eastern and western Europe could be increased. In view of the existing situation in Europe, ECE would, in his delegation's opinion, best serve its purpose by continuing its present work, concentrated mainly in technical fields, and taking up only such new topics as were of common interest to both groups of countries in Europe. That would open up opportunities for positive and practical results, even if such results did not represent spectacular gains.

8. Mr. WODAJO (Ethiopia) said that, owing to the way in which they had been able to maintain close contact with the thinking, needs and aspirations of the peoples in their respective regions, the regional economic commissions were among the most useful institutions in

the United Nations system. The regional approach, which had always been viewed in the context of the principle of universality, could effectively assist in supplying knowledge to a universal pool of human experience and wisdom, and could be used to single out and apply effectively solutions which had been developed on the basis of international co-operation. The existing policy was to widen the scope of that regional approach by further decentralizing the economic and social activities of the United Nations. General Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI) and the Council's resolution on decentralization (823 (XXXII)) in particular had emphasized the operational nature of that policy, especially in the technical assistance field.

9. The obstacles to decentralization included resistance to change and the institutional difficulties arising from the complexity of the United Nations system and from legislative relationships; but, most important of all, the Secretary-General had been unable to provide all the personnel required to implement the policy of decentralization. However, everything seemed to indicate that in 1963 the demand for personnel at Headquarters would not be so pressing, and he hoped that the Secretary-General would find it possible to provide the regional commissions with sufficient staff to enable them to undertake more operational tasks. There was also scope for more co-operation among the regional commissions themselves.

10. The most vexing problem facing ECA concerned the recruitment of staff. Despite the Executive Secretary's efforts, the number of qualified staff available to implement the work programme was quite inadequate. He wondered whether potential candidates regarded Africa as a hardship station and therefore wanted additional inducements. He also wondered what efforts were being made to recruit experts from the developing countries other than the African countries, or from other regions of the world such as eastern Europe, for example. Owing to the difficulty of attracting experts for assignments in Africa, the representatives of African governments had stressed that the sooner the core of the secretariat staff consisted of African personnel the better. The case for the africanization of the Commission's staff had intrinsic merit, since it would infuse African thinking and aspirations into the secretariat. As in the case of ECLA, in particular, ECA could become a suitable training ground for African leaders but the africanization of the secretariat should not be achieved at the cost of excluding the possibility of using experience from other parts of the world in the form of the services of experts. However, the Executive Secretary had reported that he was finding it extremely difficult to find suitable African candidates with adequate training and experience. That difficulty might be due to an excessively rigid application of United Nations recruitment policies and standards to the special situation in Africa. Those policies and standards placed far too much emphasis on experience to the exclusion of other factors, and thus made it impossible to use the talents of young people, even from the old developed countries, and particularly from the African countries, very few of which were in a position to provide personnel with fifteen or twenty years' experience. Nor was it likely that any promising young African with bright

prospects in his own country would be induced to seek a clerical job with the secretariat.

11. With regard to the work of ECA during the past year, the importance of its statistical activities should be emphasized. The Conferences of African Statisticians had helped to standardize the types of information and data sought as well as the procedures of statistical interpretation. Three regional statistical training centres had been established and many African governments were organizing and strengthening their statistical services along the lines of the Commission's recommendations.

12. Important work had also been done in the fields of economic planning and the social aspects of development. The promotion of intra-African trade and Africa's international trade problems had loomed large in the Commission's discussions and work programme. He noted that in the past African governments had rightly pointed out that the Commission's efforts in the field of surveys of natural resources and industrialization had lagged. That, however, had been due to the difficulty of recruiting experts and it was hoped that the Commission would make good progress in that field in 1962 and 1963.

13. Two important initiatives had been taken by the African governments in proposing the establishment of an African institute on economic development and planning and an African development bank. In both cases the inspiration had come from the experience and thinking of other regions. The institute, it was hoped, would train Africans in sufficient numbers to make an impact on economic conditions. However, he felt that the reports of the panel of experts on the institute (E/CN.14/128 and Add.1-3 and Add.1/Corr.1) were far too timid. The institute, according to the panel's recommendations, was to start with fifteen trainees, a number to be increased to forty after five years. In other words, for the next years the institute would not even be able to train an average of one African national for every member and associate member of the Commission. Most of the African governments had indicated their readiness to assume a major share of the burden of financing the African development bank, which was to supplement the efforts of existing international financial institutions. That bank, by mobilizing African resources, would symbolize the principle of self-help, and his delegation hoped that the visiting mission recently established at Monrovia would receive more explicit declarations of assistance for the bank from some potential contributors.

14. Referring to the decisions adopted by ECA at its fourth session, he emphasized that its resolutions 42 (IV) and 44 (IV) had been in no way motivated by a sense of vindictiveness or a refusal to co-operate on a new basis with the former colonial powers. In spite of the unfortunate episode of colonialism, Africans had buried the past and were willing and ready to use historical relationships for the benefit of all on the basis of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and the recognition that Africans alone had the right to make final decisions in regard to their future. No African would deny that the knowledge possessed by the metropolitan powers of African conditions and problems could assist Africa in its struggle for economic development. For example, the

ties of language and trade between Africa and the former metropolitan powers could be used to the advantage of both Africa and Europe in pursuance of the new concept of international co-operation developing within the United Nations system. He noted that previously the reason for granting full membership to France and the United Kingdom had been the fact that those powers had been responsible for certain Territories in Africa. Some of the Territories had since become independent and the other Non-Self-Governing Territories were required to be represented under the terms of General Assembly resolution 1466 (XIV), operative paragraph 2 of which read "Specially requests all Member States administering Non-Self-Governing Territories in Africa to propose the participation of these Territories in the work of the Economic Commission for Africa". The same principle had been accepted by Commission resolution 24 (III),¹ which, among other things, invited the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission on the measures taken by the administering Powers to bring about the participation of the Territories in the work of the Commission.

15. Spain had not furnished any explanation, verbal or written, of its attitude in respect of the representation of its African Territories, and its silence had been interpreted as a sign of non-coöperation. Portugal, on the other hand, had refused to apply the General Assembly and Commission resolutions in respect of the representation of Non-Self-Governing Territories; it continued to adhere to the old fiction that its colonies in Africa were an extension of its metropolitan territory, an argument that had been rejected several times by the General Assembly.

16. In the face of such obstinacy and refusal to co-operate, it had been decided that the participation of Portugal and Spain would not serve any useful purpose in the common struggle against poverty, disease and illiteracy in Africa. However, the recent memorandum from the Spanish Government (E/L.953 and Corr.1) indicated a change in that country's attitude, and the Ethiopian delegation was prepared to give the matter further thought.

17. The decision in respect of the membership of the Republic of South Africa was a different case. By applying its policy of apartheid, the South African Government had deprived the vast majority of its inhabitants of the benefits that should be enjoyed by Africans as a result of their association with the Commission's activities. That government had not even allowed a sub-committee authorized to consider the impact of racial discrimination on economic growth to visit the country. It had furthermore refused to co-operate with the Commission, which had taken note of that refusal by recommending the suspension of its membership (resolution 44 (IV)).

18. The Council should view those decisions in the light of the circumstances in which they were taken and should approve them.

19. Mr. PASTORI (Uruguay) said that his delegation had always been a keen supporter of decentralization and the strengthening of the regional economic commissions; and the reports of the four executive secretaries

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 10, part III.*

confirmed its opinion. At the time of the establishment of the Committee for Industrial Development, the Uruguayan delegation, believing that different economies should be considered from different angles, had argued that there was no single solution, and that different formulae should be sought for the various regions; and it had proposed that the regional economic commissions should be represented on a permanent basis at the Committee's sessions. Such differentiation did not signify the absence of co-operation and co-ordination. At a time when mankind was being further divided into new States, its unity was being strengthened by the advances made in transport and communications, and practical solidarity was thus being created in a number of spheres, including economic affairs.

20. With regard to ECLA, the Uruguayan delegation subscribed to the conclusions reached by its Executive Secretary at the 1210th meeting. Immediately after the Second World War, the Latin American economy had enjoyed a period of prosperity: the size of its population had exceeded that of the United States, its import capacity had increased by 70 per cent and its production capacity by 76 per cent. However, that had been followed by a period of stagnation and of near-regression. The time had now come to reappraise the problem, and the best way of doing so and of finding a solution was to develop a thorough knowledge of the aims and aspirations of the Latin American masses and to abandon the idea of applying to that continent solutions which had been found suitable for economically advanced countries.

21. In the light of those considerations, of the ECLA report (E/3581/Rev.1) and of the realities of the continent, his delegation noted two encouraging facts, the Tripartite Agreement concluded at the first meeting of the OAS/ECLA/IDB *ad hoc* Committee on Co-operation and the establishment of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning. It awaited with interest the *Economic Survey of Latin America, 1961*, which had been entrusted to the OAS under the Tripartite Agreement. It regarded the Institute as the instrument through which the results that Latin America expected from ECLA could best be achieved.

22. There were two other encouraging elements in the current situation. The first was the Alliance for Progress, a dynamic factor which should facilitate the economic transformation of the continent. Fortunately, the seriousness of the economic and social situation had been appreciated and it had been realized that the only remedy lay in collective action. The new scheme opened up fresh horizons, and its more realistic and broader approach gave hope of a better understanding of Latin America's problems. The second encouraging element was the establishment of the Latin American Free Trade Association, which marked a new stage in the trade relations between Latin American countries. Uruguay had already observed an encouraging increase in its trade with the other countries of the region.

23. Finally, the Uruguayan delegation saw two discouraging elements in the situation. First, it noted with regret that co-operation and co-ordination among the various regions were not always as sincere and as far-reaching as might be hoped; the discriminatory measures

adopted by the members of the Common Market against the primary commodities supplied by the majority of Latin American countries were seriously affecting their economies. His delegation also regretted that express provisions of GATT concerning international trade in those commodities were being distorted. Those developments were of great importance to the Latin American countries, at it was impossible for them to plan their economic development unless they could be sure of being able to sell their primary commodities at fair and reasonable prices. Secondly, his delegation deplored the inadequacy of the resources placed at the disposal of the regional economic commissions. It particularly regretted that, owing to lack of resources, no specific study of trade in traditional products had been undertaken, although such a study had been provided for under Commission resolution 119 (VII) and Trade Committee resolution 4 (I) (E/3581/Rev.1, project 31, pp. 47-48). It urged the Executive Secretary to do everything in his power to ensure that that study, which was of primary importance to the Latin American countries, was made available to them as soon as possible.

24. Mr. EL-FARRA (Jordan) said that, although his country was not a member of any of the regional economic commissions, it had followed their activities with great interest. He was impressed by the achievements of ECAFE; the proposed Asian institute for economic development was one of the many constructive projects considered by the Conference of Asian Economic Planners. The exchange of experience and knowledge was always fruitful and he was glad to note that the Commission sponsored many conferences and seminars for that purpose.

25. Much had been accomplished in a short time by ECA and it was gratifying to see it concentrate on expert planning for the development of Africa. The setting up of a development institute for Africa was in line with General Assembly resolution 1708 (XVI), and would be of assistance to the Commission in its future work; he hoped that the Special Fund would be in a position to give all possible help to the proposed institute. His delegation supported the establishment of the proposed African development bank, which it hoped would play an important part in the future development of Africa.

26. As to the question of membership in ECA, and to draft resolution III (E/3586, part IV) submitted by that Commission to the Council for action, there was unfortunately no indication that Portugal had reconsidered its attitude or shown any desire to co-operate with the United Nations. Spain, on the other hand, had stated expressly in a document before the Council (E/L.953 and Corr.1) that it was prepared to comply with the terms of General Assembly resolution 1466 (XIV) and ECA resolution 24 (III). His delegation was glad to note that, however it arose, the situation caused by the delay in furnishing the information requested under those resolutions had been rectified by that action. The original draft of the resolution submitted to ECA (E/CN.14/L.93) had merely reminded the Spanish Government of the need to fulfil resolution 1466 (XIV) and resolution 24 (III); some representatives had at that time doubted the wisdom of recommending the exclusion of Spain, taking the view that the Spanish representative

might still receive instructions expressing willingness to comply with the resolutions in question. Had the Commission had before it the document now submitted to the Council, its decision in regard to Spain might well have been different. Since Spain had thus announced its compliance with the relevant resolutions in an official document, he hoped that the Council would take steps which would lead to Spain's being given the same treatment as had been accorded by ECA to those countries which had submitted the required information at an earlier date, namely, the United Kingdom and France.

27. It was hardly necessary for him to comment on draft resolution IV submitted by ECA to the Council on the subject of the membership of the Republic of South Africa; his delegation had sponsored all the relevant General Assembly resolutions, which the Republic of South Africa continued to violate, ignore and defy.

28. Lastly, there was an area in the Near and Middle East, consisting of Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria and Lebanon, which belonged to none of the regional commissions. The annual report on economic developments in the Middle East, the inadequacies of which his delegation had already mentioned at the Council's 1162nd meeting, had not yet been issued for 1961. The reason for that delay was that there was no economic centre in the area, although the United Nations Social Centre was situated in Beirut. United Nations experts had emphasized the importance of balanced social and economic development, but the Secretariat had not yet found a way to establish balanced social and economic machinery in the area. His delegation saw no reason why an economic centre should not be set up on similar lines to the existing office in Beirut; such a centre could work in co-operation with the economic department of the League of Arab States. Further, at United Nations Headquarters, in spite of increases in personnel every year, there was no adequate economic section for the Middle East.

29. In conclusion, he would ask the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs whether the report on economic developments in the Middle East would be submitted to the Council, and if so, when. He also wished to know whether it was planned to establish an economic centre at Amman or Beirut, for example, together with a supplementary unit at United Nations Headquarters for those Arab States which belonged to no regional economic commission.

30. Miss SALT (United Kingdom) said that over the years the regional economic commissions had come increasingly to occupy the position of trust and responsibility in United Nations economic and social work for which their regional knowledge and associations so well fitted them. That development, however, had taken place against the background of a continued and universal recognition that those commissions were arms of an organization which covered the whole world and that their activities formed part of a great co-operative effort embracing all regions and every Member State. That fundamental principle had been recognized in the General Assembly and in the Council itself. Indeed, it was through the Council that that essentially worldwide approach was most clearly apparent.

31. The United Kingdom had long regretted that the restricted size of the Council still prevented it from being as fully representative of the different regions of the world as the majority of Member States of the United Nations would wish. However, the membership of the Council included some States from every region, as a token of a common purpose behind United Nations efforts for worldwide development.

32. She was struck by the extent to which solutions and machinery were developing along similar lines in the different commissions. One example was provided by the economic development and planning institutes, which the General Assembly in its resolution 1708 (XVI) had recommended should be established with Special Fund assistance in the three less developed regions of the world.

33. There was a growing recognition of the advantages to developing countries of increased co-operation in trade matters. That recognition was apparent in the formation of the Latin American Free Trade Area and in the efforts towards the setting up of a Central American common market, towards an association of South-East Asian States and towards a customs union between Nigeria, Dahomey and Togo. In that respect, she disagreed with the Soviet Union representative, who thought that those developments might hinder the growth of world trade; on the contrary, they would greatly stimulate such growth, so long as the groupings remained "outward-looking", to quote the expression used by the Executive Secretary of ECLA.

34. Progress had been made in the decentralization of economic and social activities of the United Nations and in the strengthening of the regional economic commissions in response to General Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI). Unlike the Polish representative, she felt that that progress had been most heartening.

35. Her delegation had always considered that the regional commissions must have a central role to play in the development of regional technical assistance projects. She noted with satisfaction that, in terms of expenditure, ECAFE already directly executed 65 per cent of its regional projects, ECA 80 per cent and ECLA 90 per cent. The commissions were being developed, in the words of the Secretary-General, as "focal centres for advice to governments in the planning of their technical assistance" (E/3643, para. 8). The establishment on a regular basis of meetings at the commissions' headquarters of the resident representatives in the regions would contribute to maintaining close contacts between the secretariats of the commissions and the resident representatives.

36. Staff recruitment remained a key problem; there was clearly no point in shifting the responsibility for different aspects of work to the regional commissions until they were adequately staffed to undertake it. However, subject to the decisions of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, continued progress could be hoped for in the matter; further staff additions were proposed, apart from the large increases approved in 1961.

37. Certain functions, however, would have to remain at Headquarters if duplication were to be avoided and efficiency maintained; it was through Headquarters that

the regional commissions were linked with the United Nations as a whole and also with each other. Moreover, where there was a shortage of qualified experts, it was advantageous to keep them centrally available so that they could be used in different regions on request.

38. She was impressed by the rapid growth, the enthusiasm and the energy of ECA. At its fourth session, the need for greater co-operation between African countries had once again been stressed; her delegation wholeheartedly supported the emphasis placed on that point.

39. Two of the draft resolutions recommended to the Council by ECA concerned the membership of the Commission. As far as the position of her own government was concerned, the United Kingdom had always considered itself as being to a large extent a guest of the regional members in the non-European commissions. Accordingly, while trying to play as constructive a role as it could in all their deliberations, the United Kingdom had followed and would always follow a policy of not using its votes in a way which might run counter to the interests and wishes of a majority of the regional members. That attitude was embodied in the Lahore formula, the considerations behind which would also seem to apply to the ECA recommendations concerning the continued full membership in the commission of, among other States, the United Kingdom. She could well understand the concern and perhaps the apprehensions to which those considerations had given rise, and wished to stress that whatever the outcome of the current debate it was the intention of her government to continue to follow the Lahore formula practice in the exercise of whatever voting rights it had in ECA.

40. The United Nations had been founded on the idea that it was constructive for governments with widely different policies and points of view to sit together and discuss their problems and differences. The regional economic commissions were part of that greater whole, and the Council should consider carefully the implications of any action which might seem to detract from the multilateral character of the United Nations. The United Kingdom Government in no way condoned acts such as those described at the 1211th meeting by the representative of Senegal, but it did consider that the exclusion of Member States from the United Nations deliberations was not calculated to bring United Nations influence to bear on their conduct; nor was it the best means of preserving the integrity of the United Nations. If, therefore, she expressed some apprehension about draft resolution III submitted by ECA, it was not because her delegation was primarily concerned about the effects of the United Kingdom, but because certain parts of it seemed to raise issues of the gravest consequence for the United Nations as a whole; those apprehensions applied also to draft resolution IV concerning the Republic of South Africa.

41. With regard to ECLA, the great achievement of the year in the region had been the setting up of a Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, an achievement on which she congratulated the Latin American governments concerned and the Executive Secretary of ECLA. The establishment of similar institutes was of course going forward in Africa and in Asia and the Far East.

42. She had heard with great interest the comments made at the 1210th meeting by the Executive Secretary of ECAFE on the progress made with the great regional projects of the development of the Lower Mekong basin and the planning of an Asian highway. Her government was glad to be able to play a part in those undertakings.

43. As to ECE, she could assure the Council that its seventeenth session had been much more harmonious than might have been suggested by the statement made at the 1211th meeting by the Soviet Union representative. The Executive Secretary of ECE had, as usual, made an important contribution to the success of the session, and mention should be made of his generosity in seconding to ECA the director of one of the most important divisions of ECE.

44. Mr. CERULLI-IRELLI (Italy) said that his delegation had greatly appreciated the statements made by the four executive secretaries. His country was a member only of ECE, but it had followed with interest the work of the other regional economic commissions, sending experts and observers to their sessions. The regional economic commissions had become extremely powerful instruments for carrying out the tasks which the United Nations had set itself. Among the most interesting steps which they had taken were the establishment of a Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, the organization of the Conference of Asian Economic Planners, the investigations of the Lower Mekong basin, and, in Africa, the plan for African educational development.

45. He had listened with interest to the Jordanian representative's comments on the position of Spain in regard to draft resolution III submitted by ECA, and endorsed the wish expressed by that representative for an amicable solution of the problem.

46. The problem of decentralization was of current interest at that stage, and his delegation would make a more detailed statement on it in the Co-ordination Committee. For the moment, it would be better to try to solve the problem on the basis of day-to-day experience, rather than to make long theoretical statements which could not be translated into practice.

47. Mr. ANIEL QUIROGA (Observer for Spain), speaking at the invitation of the President, referring to ECA resolution 42 (IV) concerning the terms of reference of the Commission, said that it was only due to fortuitous circumstances that Spain had not replied to the request for information made by the Executive Secretary of ECA relating to General Assembly resolution 1466 (XIV) and to ECA resolution 24 (III). As a result, Spain had been included in ECA resolution 42 (IV), which noted that "Spain has not furnished any explanation, verbal or written, of its attitude" to resolution 24 (III). The Commission, on that basis, had recommended to the Council that Spain should be deprived of membership of ECA.

48. Spain had since submitted a memorandum, to which reference had already been made by a number of representatives. That memorandum completely altered the circumstances which had led to the adoption by ECA of its resolution 42 (IV). His delegation accordingly trusted that the Council would accede to the request

made in the memorandum and would not include in whatever resolution it might adopt the recommendation relating to Spain contained in operative paragraph 4 of ECA resolution 42 (IV), nor any of the other references to Spain contained in the existing text of that resolution or in draft resolution III submitted by ECA to the Council for action. Spain would not thereby be deprived of the status given to the Powers responsible for the international relations of Territories situated in the geographical area of ECA.

49. Mr. KLUSAK (Observer for Czechoslovakia), speaking at the invitation of the President, commended the regional economic commissions for the important part which they were playing in promoting peaceful co-operation among nations. The four commissions were also playing a substantial role in promoting the development of the less developed countries.

50. His delegation had consistently supported the strengthening of ECE, a body which, in addition to fostering economic and technical co-operation among European States, had an important part to play in extending assistance to the developing countries. In that connexion, he stressed that the member States of ECE represented no less than one-third of the world economic potential; ECE had also the advantage of comprising among its members States of different economic systems.

51. It was, however, unfortunate that the effectiveness of ECE was hampered by its lack of universality; the German Democratic Republic continued to be denied access to the Commission, an injustice against which his delegation had persistently protested. It was unfortunate also that certain useful suggestions for scientific and technical co-operation which had been put forward by the socialist countries, or submitted by the secretariat of ECE on its own initiative, had not been adopted owing to the opposition of certain western countries.

52. In addition, ECE was not playing the important part which it should play in developing trade and overcoming obstacles to trade relations. An open discussion of world trade problems in ECE would have been useful; in that connexion, he drew attention to the harmful effect on world trade of closed economic groupings and discrimination in trade.

53. His delegation expressed its full sympathy with the efforts of the less developed countries to strengthen their economic independence, efforts which were reflected in the work of ECAFE, ECA and ECLA. His delegation supported the efforts of the newly independent countries in seeking to develop their economies, which had suffered from years of neglect under colonial rule; such development was a prerequisite for an increase in the well-being of the peoples of those countries. Those countries were rightly seeking to achieve rapid industrialization and a rational utilization of their natural resources for the benefit of their own peoples.

54. His delegation welcomed the setting up of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning and the efforts towards the establishment of similar institutes in the other regions. Such institutes would play an important part in the planning of long-range projects for the benefit of the developing countries.

55. At the seventeenth session of ECE, his delegation had suggested that a planning centre should be set up for Europe as well. Such a centre would make it possible for the European region to pool its knowledge and make it available to the other regions. That suggestion, although fully consistent with the terms of General Assembly resolution 1708 (XVI), had not been adopted.

56. The Czechoslovak Government consistently endeavoured to develop international trade relations on the basis of equality of all nations. Those trade relations were currently hampered by the setting up of artificially closed markets. That process had been particularly detrimental to the interests of the developing countries and their anxieties in that respect were reflected in the reports of the regional commissions. His delegation was confident that a world solution of trade problems would ultimately be sought and that a worldwide trade organization would be set up. The existing situation was injurious to the interests both of the developing countries and of the industrialized countries themselves, besides engendering international bitterness. His delegation therefore supported the idea of convening a world trade conference within the framework of the United Nations.

57. Mr. TRAORE (Observer for Mali), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the reports of the regional economic commissions demonstrated that the world was becoming increasingly aware of the dangers of unbalanced economic growth — with the problem of under-privileged areas — and of the benefits which could be derived from a worldwide division of labour.

58. His delegation had been particularly interested in the statement made at the 1211th meeting by the Executive Secretary of ECA. It regretted that some countries in the world, and particularly in Africa, were still pursuing a policy that was at variance both with the principles of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with that spirit of loyalty and fraternity without which no genuine co-operation was possible. He was thinking particularly of the Republic of South Africa. He could not understand how a State, in which 72 per cent of the members of the population were held in servitude for the simple reason that their skin was of a different colour, could offer its co-operation to peoples who were racially identical with its victims. In fact, South Africa had itself surrendered its rights to membership of the commission when, in reply to resolution 26 (III) requesting the Executive Secretary to make subregional studies of the economic and social consequences of racial discriminatory practices, it had refused to take part in the fourth session of ECA or to allow a Sub-Committee to carry out investigations on its territory. Spain and Portugal had associated themselves with South Africa in refusing to observe the elementary principles which were indispensable for international co-operation, although one of those countries was making a belated statement which was certainly not inspired by a genuine desire for co-operation. His delegation urged the Council to adopt draft resolutions III and IV which the Commission had submitted in regard to those three countries.

59. He also took the view that the terms of reference of ECA should be amended to allow Territories which were still dependent to participate in the commission's work as associate members in the place of the metropolitan countries. The former understood much better than the latter the sufferings which dependent Territories had to endure.

60. His delegation was keenly interested in resolution 52 (IV) on the establishment of an African development bank. He understood from the Commission's report that the operations of the bank would be of such an order of magnitude that its influence would be felt throughout Africa. The share capital subscribed would be fairly high and it would be purely African — that is, the majority of subscriptions would come from African sources; finally, all African States were to subscribe the same amount. Having in mind the financial situation existing in the majority of African States, his delegation believed that the Council should exercise great care in formulating principles regarding the share capital of the bank, its structure and its relations with national, regional and international banks to which African States were already subscribing or might in future subscribe. At the same time, the fundamental purpose of the African development bank, which was to assist in the promotion of development plans for the continent, should not in any way be restricted.

61. Mr. GRANT (Observer for Ghana), speaking at the invitation of the President, referring to the United Nations Development Decade, said that in order to achieve success, the Decade needed: first, carefully laid plans; second, well-defined goals; third, sufficient resources in men, material and funds; and fourth, adequate publicity to reach the man in the street. In that connexion, a division of functions between United Nations Headquarters and the regional commissions was desirable. The short-term objectives for the Decade should include, in the case of Africa, the setting up of an institute for economic and social planning and of a development bank within the first three years. The long-term aim should be to set up a dove-tailed system of complementary national economies in Africa, especially with regard to industry. The Development Decade was incompatible with the arms race, and the Council should make an appeal in favour of general disarmament, which would release huge resources for the Decade.

62. The growth of the world's population was another great contemporary problem, and an appeal should be made to the countries holding food surpluses, inviting them to help other countries.

63. It was a matter for regret that ECA should have to refer to three countries which had not complied with resolutions 1466 (XIV) of the General Assembly and 24 (III) of the Commission itself; they had not followed the commendable example of the United Kingdom, France and Italy. In view of that non-compliance, his delegation had no alternative but to endorse the recommendation for their exclusion from membership of ECA until they complied with those resolutions. Colonialism still lingered on. The United Nations Development Decade needed an atmosphere of complete freedom, which required a speeding-up of the process of decolonization.

64. Lastly, he expressed his gratitude to all the governments which had extended their co-operation and financial assistance for the Volta River project, which was likely to be implemented within the United Nations Development Decade.

65. Mr. COEYTAUX (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the work of UNESCO, particularly in education, generally took the form of participation in regional projects, and it was therefore natural that the regional economic commissions should, to an increasing degree, be closely associated with that work. The organization was grateful to the executive secretaries for their collaboration in the three regional conferences at which the ministers of education of Africa, Latin America and Asia had met.

66. New prospects were opening up for such collaboration. The UNESCO had a major interest in the establishment of regional planning and development institutes. His organization conceived of educational planning as a continuous process, organically integrated in national economic and social development plans, and therefore regarded it as extremely desirable that the institutes should include a special section which would impart relevant instruction in appropriate form. It was continuing its negotiations with the secretariats of the regional economic commissions with a view to laying down procedures for its collaboration both in the teaching programmes of those regional institutes and with the organs which would have to guide the institutes' work. Such collaboration was the more essential as the Acting Director-General was to submit, at the next General Conference, proposals for the establishment in Paris of an institute for the training of senior educational planning staff. The specialists thus trained would be able to make an appreciable contribution to the activities of the regional institutes.

67. Mr. de SEYNES, Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs,² replying to the Jordanian representative, admitted that the Secretariat's work relating to the Middle East had not only not experienced the expansion recorded in other areas, but had also been retarded by the force of circumstances. That, however, applied only to economic research. In the social field, a fair level of activity had been maintained, and in the sphere of technical assistance and of the Special Fund, work had been intensified and noteworthy successes had been achieved.

68. Serious thought had been given to the deficiencies pointed out by the representative of Jordan. In the budget estimates for 1963, and perhaps also by other means, it was intended to make arrangements for more intensified United Nations activities, either at Headquarters or at the regional office which already existed in Beirut, in order to come closer to achieving their ideal of balanced economic and social development.

69. With regard to the study, *Economic Developments in the Middle East, 1955-1961* (E/3635), two chapters had arrived in Geneva and would shortly be distributed. The third was expected to arrive before the debate on

² The complete text of the statement made by Mr. de Seynes was circulated as document E/L.965.

world economic trends began. He apologized for the delay in submitting the document.

70. The Secretariat's inability to meet its commitments with regard to the Middle East was due solely to the fact that it had not been in a position to assign the necessary resources to that work. That should be considered together with remarks made on the pace of decentralization. It was not to be supposed that Headquarters was generously staffed, but refused the executive secretaries the resources they required. The truth was that at Headquarters, as elsewhere, the Secretariat was in a state of permanent crisis. For three years, tasks which could not be carried out locally had been becoming more numerous as a result of decisions of the directing bodies, without adequate provision of funds by the General Assembly. The Secretariat was operating like a military commander who, unable to fight on all fronts simultaneously, threw in his troops at different points in turn wherever they were most needed. For three years, the Secretariat had been living on its human capital, demanding unreasonable efforts of its staff. If that state of affairs were to continue for another year, it would certainly lead to deterioration of the human material. Such was the situation explaining the gaps in the work relating to the Middle East, and the pace at which decentralization was proceeding.

71. As to decentralization of technical assistance, it should be realized that the Secretariat was operating under a unified programme, since the General Assembly had not decided in favour of dividing the technical assistance programme into four separate programmes. If the General Assembly had preferred four programmes, three of the regional economic commissions would soon have found themselves compelled to establish substantive and administrative services outside their regions, since, owing to the nature of the technical assistance programme, which was intended to link industrial and under-developed countries, certain operations could be carried out efficiently only at certain places and in a certain environment. The Secretariat accordingly had to operate not only at the periphery, but also at the centre, a double centre, so to speak, forming a New York-Geneva axis. In that context, he shared the view that Geneva and ECE should be assigned a larger role in technical assistance.

72. Together with the trend towards decentralization, another trend, tending towards the creation of centres, had asserted itself, and there was no contradiction in the coexistence of the two phenomena. The more the United Nations decentralized its work, the more it had to strengthen some of its central services. The allocation of work as between Headquarters in New York and the regional economic commissions must be such that the work of the centre and that of the periphery were complementary. That concept was indispensable if technical assistance was to retain its universality and if experience and knowledge were to be effectively exchanged between all regions of the world. If that idea were understood, there should soon be achieved a degree of decentralization satisfactory to those who advocated it.

73. The main problem, however, was one of resources. If effective decentralization were to be achieved without

harming the system, the instruments of decentralization must be developed — institutes, regional advisers, strengthening of regional units and some provision of administrative staff familiar with the intricacies of the programme. All those required resources. It was unlikely that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly would be able to disregard much longer the problem of the relationship between tasks and resources. One of the organs of the United Nations should make a searching study of the question in connexion with the Development Decade and attempt to plan the tasks entrusted to the Secretariat.

74. Mr. ARKADEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in his statement, he had simply analysed the substance of the remarks made by a representative of a major European power, since he disagreed with that representative's views on the future of ECE.

75. He would point out to the United Kingdom representative that one could keep informed of the work of an organization or body without attending its sessions. The United Kingdom representative, moreover, had invoked the principle of the universality of the United Nations in connexion with the resolutions adopted by ECA. That argument sounded rather strange, coming as it did from a country which recognized the People's Republic of China and yet consistently voted against recognition of its legitimate rights in the United Nations. Nor had the principle of universality ever been invoked by the United Kingdom in support of the admission of the German Democratic Republic to ECE.

76. With regard to the remarks of the Executive Secretary of ECLA, he had invariably found the *Economic Survey for Latin America* to be a valuable and reliable document; what he failed to understand was why it had suddenly been decided to change the method by which it was prepared, and why an urgent need for the assistance of OAS had arisen. If the other regional commissions were to follow the example set by ECLA, the *Economic Survey of Europe* would be prepared in co-operation with NATO and the *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East* in conjunction with SEATO. The matter was one which should be examined carefully by the Council.

77. Mr. PATIÑO (Colombia) expressed his delegation's gratitude to ECLA and to its Executive Secretary. His country was particularly gratified to have a part in the project for the establishment of the Latin American economic and social planning institute. He also expressed satisfaction at the fruitful relations established by ECLA with OAS and with the Inter-American Development Bank.

78. As to ECA resolution 42 (IV), his delegation was satisfied with the explanations given by Spain in its memorandum. Accordingly, it could not support any proposal to deprive Spain of membership of ECA. He was glad to note from the statement by the representative of Ethiopia that the memorandum by Spain introduced a new element which, if it had been placed before ECA at the appropriate time, would probably have led to a different decision in regard to Spain. The representative of Senegal, at the 1211th meeting, appeared to have, tacitly, at least taken the same view. Since a

number of delegations objected to the proposal to deprive Spain of membership of ECA, but none had so far put forward any formal amendment, he suggested that the President might consider deferring consideration of draft resolution III submitted by ECA in order to enable the delegations concerned to discuss the matter.

79. Mr. EL-FARRA (Jordan) pointed out that if action on ECA draft resolution III were to be deferred, the same course would have to be adopted in regard to draft resolution I, because the annual report of ECA contained resolution 42 (IV) relating to membership of the Commission.

80. Mr. GUERRERO (El Salvador) said that the statement by the Observer for Spain and the memorandum submitted by the Permanent Representative of Spain made it clear that Spain was complying with the terms of General Assembly resolution 1466 (XIV) and of ECA resolution 24 (III). He therefore joined the Colombian and other representatives in opposing the proposal that Spain should be excluded from membership of ECA.

81. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolutions submitted by the regional economic commissions.

The draft resolution submitted by the Economic Commission for Europe (E/3584, part IV) was adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution submitted by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (E/3599, part IV) was adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution submitted by the Economic Commission for Latin America (E/3581/Rev.1, part IV) was adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution submitted by the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America (E/3649, part III) was adopted unanimously.

82. After an exchange of views between Mr. ARKADEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. WODAJO

(Ethiopia) and Mr. PATIÑO (Colombia), the PRESIDENT said that a decision on draft resolutions I, III and IV submitted by ECA would be deferred.

Draft resolution II submitted by the Economic Commission for Africa (E/3586, part IV) was adopted unanimously.

83. Mr. MELLER-CONRAD (Poland) introduced the draft resolution contained in document E/L.956, which his delegation, together with those of Brazil, India and Senegal, had co-sponsored.

84. Mr. KLUTZNICK (United States of America) proposed, first, the deletion of the third preambular paragraph, since the memorandum submitted by the Brazilian delegation covered matters other than decentralization; and secondly, in operative paragraph 2 that the words "continue to" be inserted before the words "take steps". With the latter amendment, the text would more accurately reflect the situation, since the Secretary-General had indeed taken steps to implement the policy of decentralization as outlined by the Council and the General Assembly.

The amendments were adopted.

85. Miss SALT (United Kingdom) proposed that the words "in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1709 (XVI)" should be added after the words "the process of decentralization" in operative paragraph 2.

The amendment was adopted.

86. Mr. TRIVEDI (India) proposed that in operative paragraph 2 the word "further" be inserted before the word "steps".

The amendment was adopted.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 7.30 p.m.