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President : Mr. A. PATIÑO (Colombia).

Present :

Representatives of the following States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, 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: Algeria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Hungary, Indonesia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa.

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

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, International Telecommunication Union.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Reports of the regional economic commissions (E/3727/Rev.1, E/3735, E/3759 and Annex, E/3764, E/3766/Rev.2, E/3786, E/3798) (*continued*)

1. Mr. KRÁLIK (Czechoslovakia) said that the regional economic commissions were playing an increasingly important part in the solution of economic and social problems, particularly those of the developing countries, whose rapid economic development it was the com-

missions' essential task to promote by helping to establish the necessary specific conditions. Industrial development was the main prerequisite of economic and social development.

2. His delegation had studied with great interest the ECLA report (E/3766/Rev.2) which analysed the economic problems of Latin America. They clearly showed that the social and economic structure in that continent must be changed in order to ensure that the human and material resources were fully utilized. In particular, steps must be taken to ensure a more equitable distribution of income. The Czechoslovak delegation, which had always striven to uphold the principles of peaceful co-existence, was glad to note that ECLA had spoken in favour of the universal development of world trade and economic co-operation among all countries, and of studying and utilizing the experience of all countries, both socialist and capitalist, in matters of development. During the current session, his delegation would heartily support the efforts of the ECLA countries to promote the economic development of Latin America.

3. His delegation also welcomed the fact that the liquidation of the economic and social consequences of colonialism had become the principal aim of the activity of ECA. It was reasonable and just that the new African nations should achieve full self-determination in the economic and social field. In view of the danger that the presence of the colonial powers in ECA might hinder that process, his delegation supported the draft resolutions (E/3727/Rev.1, part IV) which asked for the reorganization of ECA on purely African lines.

4. As to the steady fall in the exports of Asian countries to western Europe, the development of the Asian region could be safeguarded only by the strict application of the principle of reciprocity, particularly so far as concerned the trade in agricultural produce.

5. The ECE had lately devoted much attention to the study of certain important problems of economic and commercial co-operation among European countries; he hoped that the range and frequency of seminars, symposia and study tours would be increased.

6. Unfortunately, the activity of the regional economic commissions still displayed certain shortcomings — there were many outstanding problems and unused opportunities. The work of some of the commissions was seriously hampered by the fact that not all the countries of the region were represented. His delegation had repeatedly pointed out the absurdity of refusing the German Democratic Republic its due place in ECE. In the same way, the People's Republic of China, the People's Demo-

cratic Republic of Korea and the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam were missing from ECAFE, with the result that more than 750 million people and the largest agricultural producer in the world were prevented from contributing to the solution of the economic and social problems of the region.

7. He regretted that the regional economic commissions had not had recourse to all the possibilities of the exchange of experience and of co-operation with one another. It was incumbent upon ECE in particular to find ways of making the experience of its members available to the other regional commissions. The document entitled "Fifteen years of ECE activity" (E/3759, annex) showed that the secretariat and the subsidiary bodies of ECE had done important work, from which the other regional commissions and the United Nations as a whole should be able to derive much benefit.

8. The ECE should give more thought to ways in which its experience could be used for increasing the productive forces in the developing countries. The exchange of scientific and technical experience between industrially advanced countries could help developing countries to acquire the most modern techniques. It would be necessary to adapt those techniques to the needs of the developing countries, and that would entail additional research and higher costs; but the introduction of air-conditioning, for example, had in certain cases enabled productivity to be increased by 40 per cent. The work programmes of the various organs of ECE could very usefully include the consideration of the problems of modern technology as a means of promoting the industrial and economic development of other regions of the world.

9. Like other countries, Czechoslovakia was closely watching the trend towards internationalization in the economic field, towards the specialization of production and towards a more far-reaching international division of labour. In that connexion, too, the regional commissions, and above all ECE, had an important part to play. He could not understand how the delegations of countries which were in a position to do most, through ECE, towards abolishing hunger and poverty in the developing countries, could advocate limiting the activities of ECE; but it was reassuring that the experts of those very countries did not share that attitude and were doing all they could to enable ECE to fulfil its mission.

10. The Secretary-General's message to the eighteenth session of ECE (E/3759, annex II) had expressed the views of most of the Member States of the United Nations; what remained to be done was to make the Secretary-General's words a reality.

11. Mr. WODAK (Austria) said that the reports of the four economic commissions had many things in common and together gave a vivid picture of the varied work that was being done in the whole economic and social sphere. In addition, they represented a vital source of information about conditions in various parts of the world and were consequently of special importance to countries like his own.

12. Many questions of general interest were touched upon, such as the problems of the developing countries

and the vital question of centralization *versus* decentralization, which led directly to the all-important question of co-ordination of the activities of the various organizations making up the United Nations family. His delegation reserved the right to return to that and other questions at a later stage.

13. His delegation would be happy to support most of the draft resolutions submitted by the regional commissions, but would ask for more time to give consideration to draft resolutions II and IV of ECA (E/3727, part IV). He would therefore suggest that the vote on those particular draft resolutions be deferred.

14. The report of ECE was naturally of special interest to Austria. He welcomed the opportunity to reaffirm his country's great interest in that Commission's activities. Because of its geographical position and the traditional currents of its foreign trade, Austria had always been especially interested in co-operating with other countries to their mutual benefit. The fact that ECE comprised countries of differing social and economic systems offered unique possibilities of co-operation. He fully endorsed the comment made by the representative of the United States at the 1276th meeting concerning the study undertaken by ECE of the problems of east-west trade.

15. The work undertaken by ECE to assist the developing countries, and its efforts to study the different methods used in Europe for economic planning, were also worthy of special mention.

16. In its desire to contribute to economic and general co-operation, Austria had supported the efforts, started in 1960, to secure the simplification of export documents, an undertaking that was of wider than regional interest and would undoubtedly benefit the developing countries in their efforts to expand their export trade. Appreciable results had already been achieved. Austria had also taken the initiative in arranging for studies aimed at the establishment of a unified system of inland waterways in Europe. A satisfactory solution of that problem would go far towards reducing transport costs and would automatically result in an over-all increase in trade throughout the region.

17. Austria was greatly interested, too, in improving the regulations governing road and motor transport, as laid down in the Convention on Road Traffic and the Protocol on Road Signs and Signals of 1949. With that end in view, it had proposed the inclusion of the question as a separate item in the Council's current agenda.

18. In view of the current trends of the world economy, the regional economic commissions' task was bound to increase steadily in importance. Austria was prepared to do its utmost to contribute to a satisfactory and fruitful execution of that task.

19. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should vote on the draft resolutions submitted under the item.

20. Mr. DUPRAZ (France) stated that France accepted the status of an associate member of ECA. Since the text of ECA resolution III (E/3727, part IV) concerned it directly, the French delegation — as it had done at the

fifth session of ECA at Leopoldville in February that year— would not take part in the vote so as to avoid being both judge and interested party. As for the requests for a postponement of the vote on draft resolution II (*ibid.*) concerning the participation of Portugal and South Africa in ECA, the French delegation would point out that the various questions arising in connexion with those countries were shortly to be examined by the Security Council and the General Assembly, and that it would therefore be premature for the Council to take a decision on what were essentially political matters before it knew the point of view of the competent organs of the United Nations. His delegation therefore supported the requests for postponement.

21. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolutions submitted by the regional economic commissions on which no question had been raised.

The draft resolution submitted by ECE (E/3759, part IV) was adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution submitted by ECAFE (E/3735, part IV) was adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution submitted by ECLA (E/3766/Rev.2, part IV) was adopted unanimously.

Draft resolution III submitted by ECA (E/3727/Rev.1, part IV) was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

22. Mr. AMY (Salvador) explained that he had abstained from voting because he considered that it was too early to take a decision on the ECA report; it appeared, moreover, that certain African delegations would have preferred to wait for fuller information before stating their views on the matters in question.

23. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to comment on the request to defer consideration of the three remaining draft resolutions submitted by ECA.

24. Mr. DIOP (Senegal) said that he understood very well why some delegations should have requested time for reflection before stating their views on resolutions II and IV submitted by ECA. He thought, however, that the period for reflection should not exceed one week. In actual fact, the Council was merely being asked to take certain action which had already been taken by organs of the United Nations. Thus South Africa, which had already ceased to be a member of the British Commonwealth, had been condemned by the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa and the International Labour Organisation. After a week's reflection the members of the Council should be able to follow that example.

25. Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia) said he would like to associate himself with the remarks made by the representative of Senegal. It was hard to believe that a further period of one or two weeks was needed before the Council could decide to condemn South Africa; that country had been condemned for its racial policies year after year in the General Assembly and in other organizations. Accordingly it was to be hoped that delegations would

find it possible to endorse the unequivocal desire of the members of ECA to exclude outlaw countries from membership of the Commission.

26. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) said he had listened with great interest to the statements made by the representatives of France, Senegal and Ethiopia. There was merit in the suggestion of France that the Council should have the benefit of decisions reached by the Security Council and the General Assembly, before taking final action on the outstanding draft resolutions submitted by ECA. His delegation would have been willing to endorse that proposal if it had met with the support of the African delegations to the Council. Since that was not the case and since their impatience to see the problems in question finally settled was entirely understandable, he was in favour of the Council's coming to a decision on those questions at the current session.

27. At the same time his government was giving the proposals its sympathetic consideration. The problem was a difficult one, with many aspects apart from the purely juridical ones, and his delegation had not yet received final instructions on the matter. Nor could he guarantee that those instructions would arrive within one week. Furthermore, the Council had an extremely heavy agenda for the following ten days or so, and no one would wish to interrupt the discussion of major questions. He would accordingly appeal for a delay of two weeks, leaving the decision until the beginning of the fourth week of the session. It was not a matter of putting off the decision until the last moment; the issues involved were too important to be handled hastily.

28. Mr. JEVTIC (Yugoslavia) supported the views expressed by the representatives of Senegal and Ethiopia.

29. Mr. DIOP (Senegal) endorsed the suggestion of the United States representative that the period for reflection on draft resolutions I, II and IV contained in the report of ECA should be fixed at two weeks.

30. Mr. LEGGESE (Ethiopia) said that, in response to the United States appeal, his delegation would not insist on draft resolution II being taken up at any specific date; the point of importance was that the Council should take a stand in the matter during the current session.

31. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the proposal to defer the vote on draft resolutions I, II and IV of ECA to a later stage in the session.

The proposal was unanimously adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 18

Report of the Social Commission (E/3769): United Nations Research Institute for Social Development— Report of the Social Committee. (E/3804)

32. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Social Committee on the subject of the

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/3804), and to adopt the recommendation contained therein that the election of the following persons to the Board of the Institute be confirmed: Mr. Hamid Amar (United Arab Republic), Mr. Jerzy Wiszniewski (Poland), Mr. Widjojo Nitisastra (Indonesia), Mr. C. Vianna Moog (Brazil) and Mr. Heikki Waris (Finland).

The recommendation was adopted

AGENDA ITEM 14

Programme of technical co-operation

- (a) United Nations programmes of technical assistance
- (b) Expanded Programme
- (c) Report of the *ad hoc* committee established under Council resolutions 851 (XXXII) and 900 (XXXIV)

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (E/3783)

33. Mr. de SEYNES, Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, thought that before the Council voted on the seven draft resolutions contained in the report of TAC (E/3783) it should be reminded of those passages of the report which dealt with the important question of the regular technical assistance programme and its relationship to the Expanded Programme.

34. The question of the current position and the future of the United Nations technical assistance programme had been discussed on several occasions in recent months. In view of the financial situation of the United Nations, the bodies responsible for the Organization's financial equilibrium had reviewed the various categories of expenditure. They had accordingly considered the duality of the technical assistance programmes, with their different methods of financing. The problem of management had also been studied by the various competent committees, and more particularly by the Committee of Ten, which had not yet, however, submitted its report on the matter.

35. The Secretary-General had decided that the question should be referred to TAC, which had for so many years considered the principles and rules governing the Expanded Programme and the regular programme; and he had accordingly instructed the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs to draw the Committee's attention at its recent session to the various aspects of the problem, both financial and administrative, as viewed by the Secretariat.

36. Two problems had to be confronted: firstly, there was the financial question whether the duality of the two programmes, one of which was financed under the United Nations regular budget and the other by voluntary contributions, should be maintained. Some delegations thought that the technical assistance activities of the United Nations should be financed solely by voluntary contributions and that the Organization's budget would thereby be able to save some of the \$6.4 million allocated to the regular programme. Other delegations considered that the question was one less of economy than of the

method of financing technical assistance activities, and that such activities should not be included in the regular budget of the United Nations. In their view, while the total amount of assistance provided under the two programmes should not be reduced, methods should be found for assuring a volume of assistance equal to, if not greater than, that provided under the two programmes.

37. The second problem was one of management and was somewhat delicate because, so far as the manner of administration was concerned, some governments saw no difference between the Expanded Programme and the regular programme. That problem was of even more concern to the Secretariat than the financial problem, since the regular programme had afforded, under the head of technical co-operation, means of action which were not available under the Expanded Programme. The regular programme had a certain flexibility, which had made it possible to respond, in recent years, to more numerous and increasingly difficult requests in sectors to which the Council and the General Assembly appeared to attach particular importance. Under the Expanded Programme, the means for carrying out each project were allocated case by case; thus, for example, experts were recruited only for a particular project, whereas it had been possible under the regular programme to recruit expert consultants who had undertaken successive technical assistance missions for prolonged periods and had given a number of countries the benefit of the experience which they had thus acquired. It had therefore also been possible to intensify the policy of decentralization of activities, since that type of assistance could be provided both in the regional commissions and at Headquarters. It was doubtful whether, without that, the programme recently undertaken in the field of industrialization could have been brought to a successful conclusion, or whether the more comprehensive programme which was currently contemplated for industrialization, planning, economic programming, urbanization and public administration could be completed, if it were not possible in future to apply a type of assistance under which the services of outstandingly useful consultants could be obtained through offers of employment of guaranteed duration which made working conditions in the United Nations sufficiently attractive for them.

38. So far as concerned the regular programme, TAC had formulated a recommendation which for the moment dispelled the apprehensions voiced in some quarters concerning the future of that programme; but the problem was not solved. Account had to be taken of the views of delegations which had expressed a desire for the regular programme to be distinguished more clearly than in the past from the Expanded Programme, and for activities under the regular programme to be more readily identifiable. There were certain very active sectors in which such activities were particularly to be recommended, but it should be recognized frankly that the management of the regular programme had not so far completely answered that description. Many projects financed under the budget of the regular programme might in fact just as well be financed out of the Expanded Programme, because they did not require the type of action which came by definition within the purview of

the regular programme. In his view, therefore, the question of a reform of the management of the regular programme had now arisen and would continue to recur; and that was why he had wished to call the Council's attention to the problems involved. A reform of the regular programme was of particular interest to the Secretariat, since the problem formed part of the more general one of the use of the Organization's various resources. During the current financial crisis of the United Nations — a crisis perhaps due to events which had occurred during the past years, but which from the viewpoint of economic and social activities was virtually a permanent crisis, because of the almost continuously excessive pressure of demand on the available resources — it was natural that an attempt should be made to husband resources as far as possible, in order to meet more and more effectively the wishes of the higher organs and the requests of governments.

39. As was generally appreciated, it was extremely difficult to modify the distribution of funds, in view of the more or less specialized or more or less general interests which attached to the different types of the Organization's activities. It could, nevertheless, be claimed, in the case under consideration, that the possibility of transferring to the Expanded Programme projects currently financed within the context of the regular programme created a certain margin of manoeuvrability the full extent of which was not known, but which it would be very wrong not to investigate. Accordingly, he felt that the Secretariat should take advantage of the negotiations for EPTA for 1965-1966, due to be held during the first few months of 1964, to discuss with the beneficiary governments whether, and to what extent, it might be possible to operate the transfer in such a manner as to release certain additional funds within the framework of the Organization's regular budget. The margin of manoeuvrability would depend on the future resources of the Expanded Programme: the transfer would obviously be easier if those funds continued to increase. Such had been the nature of the observations he had made to TAC, and which the technical assistance departments had already begun to study. The matter would be examined in still more detail by the Committee of Ten, to which he hoped to have a further opportunity to explain his ideas. He had wished at the current meeting to draw the Council's attention to a matter of the greatest importance not only to the technical assistance programme itself and to the projects he had mentioned in sectors of intensive action, but also to the budgetary policy of the United Nations.

40. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that the problem of the financing of technical assistance activities, to which the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs had drawn attention, called for some observations from the French delegation, which favoured the principle that technical assistance activities should be financed from voluntary contributions, and which had supported that principle both in the Committee of Ten and in TAC. That did not mean, however, that his delegation disapproved of the method of financing from budgetary funds in those cases where technical assistance activities were

financed through the regular programmes of the participating organizations. His delegation merely believed that the participating organizations, whether the United Nations or the specialized agencies, should not make technical assistance an end in itself, as was the case under the Expanded Programme. The regular programmes of technical assistance should be maintained to the extent to which they were considered useful, but should finance operations only in exceptional cases, and then only in respect of activities which the Expanded Programme and the Special Fund were either unable or unwilling to finance themselves. There was thus a possibility of dividing the responsibility, a course which should please all those who favoured a reform under which the Expanded Programme would be developed at the expense of the regular programme.

41. The fact that the amounts paid into the regular programme had reached a high level, and had risen from \$2.5 million a few years earlier to the current figure of \$6.4 million, was an argument in favour of limiting the funds allocated to the regular programme.

42. The French delegation had supported the draft resolution (E/3783, annex IV) recommending that OPEX activities should be financed from the Special Account of the Expanded Programme. The regular budget of the United Nations would then be reduced proportionately to the extent to which OPEX operations were financed from the Expanded Programme with the help of the specialized agencies and the United Nations acting as executive agents. As to the proposed extension of technical assistance activities to certain spheres relating to human rights and to narcotic drugs, those activities should be financed from existing funds by means of economies operated in other sectors, and not by an increase in the amounts currently paid into the regular programme.

43. In conclusion, the French delegation supported the delegations which favoured financial adjustments rather than economies in the strict sense of the word. In its view, it was a question of efficient administration. The needs of developing countries must continue to be met to the same extent as before, and consequently the transfer of activities from the regular programme to the Expanded Programme should not lead to a reduction in the total amount provided for technical assistance. That should be feasible even if there was a reduction in the budgetary funds allocated to the regular programme; for in fixing the amount of their contributions donor governments would take account of the reductions they had made under one head in determining their contributions under another. The TAC, which had taken careful note of the various views expressed within the Committee of Ten, had felt that no definite decisions should be taken on those matters until the Committee of Ten had met again and made more precise recommendations. The stand which the French delegation had taken in the Committee of Ten, TAC and the Council in favour of some readjustment to the benefit of the Expanded Programme, by means of a curtailment of the regular programme, was due not to a more or less acknowledged desire to effect economies through a reduction in expenditure under the programmes

— a reduction which would ultimately result in smaller government contributions — but rather to a desire to achieve a more efficient administration which would enable better results to be obtained from the programmes.

44. Mr. CVOROVIC (Yugoslavia) noted with satisfaction that activities under the Expanded Programme had considerably developed in 1961 and 1962, owing to the increased resources which had been made available. His delegation hoped that the governments of Member countries and, in particular, those of the advanced countries, would, by regularly increasing their contributions, continue to ensure the steady extension of the Programme, in order that the ever-growing needs of the developing countries could be met. The scope which the Expanded Programme had assumed had certainly called for an improvement in working methods. The two-year programming system had yielded good results from the point of view both of the effectiveness of the participating organizations' work and of the needs of the recipient countries, since the system had made it possible to include in the Programme more complex projects of broader scope. In addition, the system would facilitate the further integration of international and national technical assistance resources; and that in turn would promote the achievement of the targets set by national development plans.

45. His delegation also wished to emphasize the rôle of the Expanded Programme in solving the problem of the training of national technical personnel, which was of particular urgency in the developing countries. Collective forms of training in those countries and regions should prove to be the most efficient and the most rational. The work of the experts sent to the developing countries should also be particularly directed towards the training of national technical personnel, and the recruitment of experts from the developing countries should be intensified, since their competence had been recognized by the receiving countries.

46. Lastly, in one of its draft resolutions (E/3783, annex II), TAC proposed that the governments of recipient countries be invited to attach special attention to the promotion of industrial development in conformity with their over-all national development plans. That was to be welcomed, because the Expanded Programme had not so far concerned itself with that matter sufficiently.

47. On the other hand, his delegation could not support the draft resolution (*ibid.*, annex IV) providing for the development of OPEX-type activities under the Expanded Programme, because the two programmes were entirely different, and the policy suggested might considerably alter the Expanded Programme as now constituted. The problem was serious and should be thoroughly studied in close consultation with all Member countries. His delegation was not opposed to OPEX-type activities as such, but considered that they were in a category of their own and should be administered by different methods. Together with other delegations, it had therefore submitted to TAC the draft resolution contained in paragraph 96 of the Committee's report. In accordance with the policy it had adopted, his delegation would

abstain from voting on the draft resolution in annex IV to the report, but would vote in favour of the other draft resolutions contained in that document.

48. Mr. MATSUI (Japan) said that his government greatly appreciated the important economic, social and human rights activities of the United Nations under the regular programme of technical assistance and under the Expanded Programme, and had tried to increase its contributions to that work as far as possible. It had frequently stressed the need for full co-operation among the recipient governments, donor States, United Nations organs and specialized agencies in order to avoid undue overlapping; co-ordination and simplification should be sought in order to utilize the available resources to the maximum extent. The technical assistance activities of the United Nations were not nearly as much publicized in the press as political events, because they were non-controversial; in view of the importance of technical assistance work, however, Member States and the Organization itself should perhaps try to publicize it through various mass media.

49. His delegation could support all the draft resolutions contained in the annexes to the report of TAC and was confident that the arguments it had advanced in various United Nations bodies would be duly considered by the Secretariat. Finally, his government would study carefully the proposals for the revision of the regular programme described earlier in the meeting by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs.

50. Mr. PULIT (Argentina) said his delegation was gratified at the increase in contributions in 1963, which had exceeded the forecasts, and hoped that the increase would be translated into a suitable expansion of the programme. It was a matter of concern to Latin American countries that the assistance they had received in 1961/1962, had not corresponded to the actual figures for the increase in contributions. The different techniques of administration adopted for the regular programme and the Expanded Programme should be adjusted in such a way as to eliminate discrimination.

51. His delegation wished to stress three points in connexion with the resolution in annex II to the report. In the first place, two-year programming had yielded excellent results and should be extended to the 1965/1966 period and even further ahead. Secondly, the training of national technical personnel for industrialization was of concern to the Latin American countries. Thirdly, the recruitment of experts from developing countries would have the advantage of providing personnel already acquainted with the environment in which they worked.

52. With reference to the draft resolution in annex IV, the Argentine delegation to TAC had abstained from voting on the proposal to transfer some of the financing of the OPEX programme to the Expanded Programme. Before such an important decision was finally taken, it was essential to review the actual principle of providing OPEX experts, since the whole scheme now differed greatly from that originally contemplated. The recruitment of OPEX experts was unsatisfactory, and no im-

provement in that connexion could be foreseen: for example, the funds allocated to the programme for 1962 had not been fully utilized. Moreover, the training of local personnel under the scheme seemed impracticable, since fully qualified experts could not be trained in the short time provided. It would therefore be inadvisable to make a recommendation on the subject to the General Assembly at that stage.

53. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) said that the special problems of the regular technical assistance programme had been debated at length in TAC but it could not be said that general agreement had been reached on the subject. All members of the Council would realize that the Secretary-General had discretion to make certain changes in the system, and they would be interested to see how those changes would work out. He would draw attention to the last sentence of paragraph 61 of the report, which stated that the majority of the Committee had expressed the wish to have additional time to consider more carefully the proposal and its ramifications before making final judgment. The United States Government, for one, would continue to consider the proposals with sympathy and interest.

54. His government had supported the OPEX scheme when it had been established on an experimental basis, and was encouraged by its success: the large number of requests for OPEX aid was the best proof of the soundness of the scheme, since the success of all technical assistance programmes must be assessed on the basis of the wishes and needs of the developing countries. That opinion was reflected in the opening sentence of paragraph 90 of the report, where it was stated that most members had felt that operation assistance of the type and scope proposed would meet a real need, which had been expressed by many developing countries and was evidenced by the number of unfulfilled requests from governments for such personnel. That was the basis on which his delegation had supported the draft resolution contained in annex IV; on the other hand, it had been unable to accept the draft resolution submitted to TAC by four delegations (E/3783, para. 96), whereby action on the programme would be postponed; that delay was unnecessary in view of the ample evidence of success and of the number of unfulfilled requests. It was gratifying that the sponsors had agreed to withdraw their draft resolution, particularly since the draft resolution now contained in annex IV had been adopted by the overwhelming majority of 19 votes to none, with 7 abstentions. It was to be hoped that the Council would adopt the draft resolution by a similar majority.

55. Finally, if he had understood the French representative's statement at the current meeting correctly, the French delegation suggested that, as some of the financing of the OPEX scheme was taken over by the Expanded Programme, the resources from the regular technical assistance programme should be correspondingly re-

duced. The United States delegation, however, wished additional funds for OPEX to be made available and thought there should be no question of reducing the funds available from the regular programme.

56. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that the United States representative had understood correctly the point which he had made — namely, that the transfer of OPEX activities to the Expanded Programme should result in an immediate or progressive reduction in the funds allocated to OPEX activities under the regular programme.

57. Mr. MEHTA (India) said his delegation could endorse all the draft resolutions in the annexes to the Committee's report, but had some reservations concerning the advisability of transferring some of the financing of the OPEX programme to EPTA. It had abstained from voting on the draft resolution on the subject (E/3783, annex IV) in TAC and looked forward to a detailed consideration of the matter in the General Assembly, in accordance with operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, since the final decision on the matter should be preceded by due deliberation.

58. Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) said in connexion with the remarks of the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs made earlier in the meeting, that the regular budget should make only token contributions to technical assistance programmes, which should be financed from the Expanded Programme and other funds. In view of the serious financial situation of the United Nations, the United Kingdom delegation did not wish any additional appropriations to be made from the regular budget. While it did not seek any reductions in that budget, it would like suitable transfers to be made from the regular technical assistance programme to voluntary funds, and therefore welcomed the proposal to transfer some of the financing of OPEX to the Expanded Programme. It had been particularly impressed by the demand for personnel; there was a number of unfulfilled requests under the OPEX scheme and had it been known that personnel was available under another programme, with, perhaps, additional funds at its disposal, that number might have been even greater. The resolution should also ensure that candidates were properly selected and that legal complications would be eliminated. On the other hand, his delegation shared the view of the majority of TAC that organizational changes should not be made hastily and that the matter should be given serious consideration. In conclusion, it believed that the two-year programming procedure was a great success on the whole, although it would take time to prove itself finally. That also applied to project programming, which was conducive to the careful preparation of projects without undue haste in committing funds.

The meeting rose at 1.0 p.m.