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United Nations Development Decade

- (a) Report prepared pursuant to Council resolution 916 (XXXIV), paragraphs 13 and 10 (E/3776);
- (b) Study prepared by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1827 (XVII) on a United Nations training and research institute (E/3780);
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GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

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, Canada, Central African Republic, Greece, Indonesia, Iraq, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, South Africa, United Arab Republic.

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 Civil Aviation Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization, Universal Postal Union, World Meteorological Organization, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

AGENDA ITEMS 4 AND 6

General review of the development, co-operation and concentration of the economic, social and human rights programmes and activities of the United Nations, the

1. Mr. ROULLIER, Secretary-General, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, introducing the annual report of IMCO (E/3787), observed that it was a young organization concerned with long-standing problems. Set up in 1959 with 56 members, it had devoted its entire activity to problems of a technical character, which were at the same time human problems. It had prepared two conventions: the first, adopted in 1960, related to the safety of life at sea and applied to maritime shipping, but IMCO was seeking to have its provisions extended to fishing vessels; the other, which was more recent and had not yet been ratified, was the 1962 Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, a problem of equal concern to IMCO and to WHO. IMCO had also undertaken studies for the elaboration of international regulations applicable to shipbuilding and designed to ensure intact and damage stability; those regulations might entail a revision of chapters II and VI of the 1960 Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea. The IMCO had also considered the question of tonnage measurement with a view to the future adoption of universal regulations relating thereto. Lastly, it had studied the problems arising in connexion with the carriage of dangerous goods by sea and had in 1962 begun the preparation of a code on such carriage, which would probably be completed by the beginning of 1963; the chapter of that code dealing with the transport of radioactive substances was being prepared in collaboration with IAEA. In addition, IMCO was seeking to facilitate sea transport through simplification of the papers which had to be produced when ships entered or left harbours; and it considered that an international conference for the preparation and ratification of a convention on methods of facilitating voyages and transport by sea might be convened in 1965 or at the beginning of 1966.

It had also considered the problem of automation on ships, and its social consequences.

2. Although IMCO was not at the moment directly participating in the technical assistance programmes, it had nevertheless a certain connexion with them since it was consulted by the United Nations on matters relating to sea ports and navigation. He was convinced that the problems he had mentioned, as well as other problems connected with the sea, could be resolved only in close co-operation with the other specialized agencies, whose company IMCO had been the latest to join.

3. Mr. JEVTIC (Yugoslavia) said that consideration of the Development Decade at that stage should throw light on how the programme was meeting the urgent needs of the developing countries and what progress had been achieved so far. The Decade had been initiated in 1961 with the basic objective of raising the rate of economic growth in the developing countries by 1.5 per cent from the 3.5 per cent registered in the 1950s to 5 per cent; that target took into account an estimated annual population increase of 2 to 2.5 per cent and an increase of 1 to 2.5 per cent in *per caput* income. At that rate, the *per caput* income could be doubled in one generation, or in twenty-five to thirty years.

4. The original estimates had not, however, been borne out by the most recent information on demographic trends. For example, according to the information on population censuses contained in the *Economic Survey for Asia and the Far East, 1962*,¹ the annual population growth in some of the countries of the region had been much higher than the estimate and stood at 3 to 3.5 per cent in *per caput* income. At that rate, the *per caput* income in some Latin American countries and other parts of the world. That meant that, if the objective of the Development Decade were achieved and the annual rate of economic growth were raised to 5 per cent, the developing countries concerned would have to wait forty to fifty years before the *per caput* income was doubled; thus, for a number of developing countries the annual *per caput* income would increase to approximately \$200 in about half a century, whereas the corresponding income in industrial countries by that time would be \$5,000 or more. That seemed to indicate that, so far as concerned the acceleration of the rate of economic development and the reduction and elimination of differences in economic levels throughout the world, the objectives of the Development Decade fell far behind the minimum requirements.

5. He was sure that no revision of the statistical data on which the objectives of the Decade had been based should result in a negative adjustment of minimum objectives. On the contrary, efforts should be directed towards increasing the average annual rate of economic growth by an additional 1.5 per cent. The Secretary-General's report on proposals for action for the Development Decade (E/3613) had suggested that the 3.5 per cent average should be increased to 5 per cent during the Development Decade; but if it were assumed that the average annual rate in the 1950s had amounted to 4.65 per cent,

as indicated on page 5 of part 1 of the *World Economic Survey, 1962* (E/3774), the rate of growth to be achieved during the 1960s should amount to 6 per cent or more.

6. Nevertheless, the documents showed that even the minimum rate of growth was not being achieved in the developing countries. The year 1962 had been very unfavourable for their economy, and, despite a few successes, their rate of growth as a group had been even slower than in earlier years, while the execution of their development programmes had been hampered by the unfavourable conditions on the world market.

7. Those facts showed that the Development Decade had not yet established itself as a programme of international co-operation able to provide effective support for the modernization of the developing countries' economies. The new note by the Secretary-General on the Development Decade (E/3776) did not contain enough proposals for international action. After examining the first report on the Decade, the Council had requested the Secretariat to prepare a programme consisting of detailed phased proposals for action with respect to the basic factors of economic growth in the light of the objectives of the Development Decade. The document prepared in pursuance of that request was indeed interesting, but in the opinion of the Yugoslav delegation would have been much more valuable if it had laid more stress on the basic factors of economic development and on wider international measures to promote acceleration of the rate of growth in the developing countries. Nor did the report devote enough attention to current economic trends in the developing countries or to problems of trade and financing; in fact, it gave them the same treatment as the less important activities of the United Nations and its related agencies.

8. In his delegation's opinion, the objectives of the Development Decade could not be met if the United Nations and its related agencies merely continued to intensify their existing activities, no matter how efficiently they were co-ordinated. It was indispensable to concentrate on the primary fields of international co-operation which were vitally important for speeding up economic development and for mobilizing the political will of governments to create the basic conditions for achieving the objectives of the Development Decade. The spheres of co-operation which should be given high priority at that stage were listed in operative paragraph 3 of Council resolution 916 (XXXIV) and were mainly concerned with the need to expand the developing countries' trade and to increase the international financing of their development.

9. As to the current intensive preparations for the Conference on Trade and Development, without such a conference the objectives of the Development Decade could not be attained. Moreover, in view of the current slackening in the developing countries' rate of growth, the decisions to be taken by the Conference would be an indispensable stimulus. More should be done to ensure the success of the Conference and, within the framework of the Development Decade, every effort should be made to induce the governments of Member States, as requested in the declaration of seventeen developing countries which were members of the Preparatory Committee, to give

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 63.II.F.1.

earnest consideration to the proposals contained in the report of the second session of that Committee (E/3799 and Corr. 1) and to explore before the beginning of the Conference all practical means for their implementation, so as to make it possible to reach at the Conference basic agreement on a new international trade and development policy.

10. With regard to item 6 of the agenda, from the point of view of co-ordination, there was now almost general agreement that the most urgent priority should be given to international trade and financing, industrialization, training of national personnel and planning. United Nations activities in connexion with industrialization were still in the initial stage, and it was to be hoped they would be expanded at Headquarters, in the regional economic commissions and in the specialized agencies. That expansion would entail organizational changes and the Centre for Industrial Development should become an operational unit of the United Nations, leading to the establishment of a specialized agency for industrialization. The training of national personnel called for extremely varied activities and was an important part of all technical assistance programmes and of all action by the Special Fund. In that connexion, his delegation was in favour of the systematic concentration of all United Nations technical assistance activities on projects which directly promoted such training.

11. It should be borne in mind that all high priority activities in the economic sphere were closely linked with national plans, which reflected the needs and demands of the developing countries. Hence the growing importance of international action to improve the methods and forms of development planning; and the relevant activities of the regional economic commissions, development institutes and the Centre for Economic Projections and Programming deserved to be followed with increasing interest. Nor should national plans for social development be neglected; and attention should be devoted to the training of technical personnel in that field, to the organization and establishment of health and social services, and to the problem of housing, especially in industrialized areas.

12. Mr. RIVET, Deputy Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization, introducing the annual report of WMO (E/3746), said that for his organization the past year had been marked by the Fourth World Meteorological Congress, which had met at Geneva from 1 to 27 April 1963 and had been attended by the representatives of 106 of the 125 member States. It might be useful to supplement the outline of WMO activities provided in the annual report by giving the Council a brief account of the Congress's work.

13. So far as concerned scientific research, it should be remembered that the role of WMO was that, not of a research centre, but of a body promoting meteorological research and encouraging its applications to various human activities. The Fourth Congress, which had ended shortly after the United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology, had given considerable attention to the conclusions of the Con-

ference and had taken them into account in reorienting and strengthening the organization's scientific research activities. In addition, in order to ensure a better co-ordination of space science work, the Congress had set up an advisory committee consisting of twelve scientists representing the twelve most important disciplines and possessing meteorological qualifications. The members of the committee would serve in a personal capacity. The wishes expressed in the Council concerning the composition of such committees would thus seem to have been met.

14. The Congress had also considered the question of meteorological education and training, which had been covered by a number of studies in 1961 and 1962, and had decided to set up a special vocational training section in the secretariat. One of the studies referred to concerned a plan for a meteorological training network in Africa, including a meteorological department in two African universities — one of which, Dakar, was French-speaking, and the other, Nairobi, English-speaking — and also regional training centres. A special effort had been made to increase the number of scholarships, and steps had been taken to ensure that most of the twenty-seven missions of technical assistance experts which WMO was planning to send to twenty-five African countries during the coming two years would provide vocational training in those countries besides carrying out the technical tasks entrusted to them.

15. On the proposal of several African countries, the Fourth Congress had also decided that if, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1844 (XVII), the United Nations designated a particular year as International Co-operation Year, WMO would contribute to that undertaking by instituting a special tropical meteorology programme and a special programme for the development of meteorology in Africa.

16. The Congress had adopted a resolution providing generous support for the United Nations Development Decade. It had decided to continue work on a ten-year programme for the development of meteorological services and the establishment of national plans for the re-organization of such services, to co-ordinate that programme with related economic and social plans, and to concentrate efforts on the training of staff.

17. In connexion with the proposed water development decade, it had been decided that the organization would take an active part in a priority programme for the utilization of water resources. It should also be noted that, thanks partly to Special Fund projects, WMO had already made an effective contribution by helping five of its members to develop and modernize their network of hydrological and meteorological stations. The programmes operated under WMO auspices and financed with the aid of the Special Fund or EPTA had considerably increased in number in 1962, a trend which was continuing during the current year. Since programmes had begun to be drawn up at the national level, there had also been a substantial increase in requests for technical assistance in the field covered by WMO. Similar developments had marked the WMO programme; they had been reflected at the Fourth Congress in the adoption of a budget

considerably larger than the previous one and in the establishment of an Operational and Technical Development Fund.

18. The aspects of WMO activity which had been outlined were those corresponding more particularly to United Nations programmes or trends. More specific WMO activities, such as those relating to the standardization of meteorological data, the international exchange of such data and the application of meteorology to various sectors of human activity, had been considerably expanded in 1962 and during the first six months of 1963, and were described fully in part II of the annual report submitted to the Council.

- ✓19. Sir Ronald WALKER (Australia) said that the decision to combine the consideration of items 4 and 6 reflected recognition of the fact that development was a unifying theme of all the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. While he would not suggest that the subject of the Development Decade entirely covered the purposes of the United Nations in economic and social matters, the procedure would help to consolidate and co-ordinate activities. On the other hand, some aspects of the procedure adopted at the current session could not be regarded as altogether satisfactory. In particular, the method of mixing statements by the heads of agencies with statements by delegations was not only distracting to delegations but destroyed the thread of the debate; the procedure followed in connexion with item 12 whereby the executive secretaries of the regional commissions had been heard before the debate, had been more orderly, and in view of the important points not necessarily connected with the Development Decade that had been raised by the representatives of the agencies, it might be better in future to assign to their statements a period preceding the general discussion.

20. He would confine his remarks to item 6 of the agenda. When the subject had been discussed at the thirty-fourth session of the Council, the inception of the Decade, under General Assembly resolution 1710 (XVI) adopted in December 1961, had been a recent event. At that time the Council's task had been to spell out the implications of the General Assembly resolution, to make appropriate recommendations to governments and to determine the first steps to be taken by the United Nations and its related agencies in promoting the objectives of the Decade. The Secretary-General's proposals for action on the subject (E/3613) had been of great assistance to the Council, and the discussions had been marked by a spirit of dedication. All the participants had been aware of the historic importance of the inauguration of the Development Decade as a landmark of modern times.

21. As long ago as 1901, an eminent Swedish economist had written that the very concept of political economy as a science implied a thoroughly revolutionary process, because political economy was concerned with the economic condition of the whole community and not, as previously, with that of a dominant minority. And yet, although that concept had been revolutionary, it had still been partial in the sense that the communities whose well-being was the object of government economic policy

were individual nations, and more particularly the wealthy and powerful ones. While in those States efforts had been made to moderate conflicting interests and to protect the weaker members of the community, external economic policies had mostly been conceived in far more selfish terms, and little attention had been paid to the possible effects of such policies on the economic conditions of other countries. Enlightened national self-interest had gradually led to a certain amount of restraint and avoidance of the most harmful consequences to others; but the elaboration of a code of economic good behaviour and acceptance of a broader concept of international common purpose expressing the responsibility of the human race as a whole for the economic and social development of all peoples had taken much longer. That basic consideration had lent solemnity to the Council's discussions.

22. In addition to its recognition of a new objective, the Council had concentrated on recommendations to governments and to the United Nations family for future action in connexion with the Development Decade, and its debates had culminated in Council resolution 916 (XXXIV). Some members had wished the resolution to contain a more detailed enumeration of priorities, but the majority had decided that that would be premature and had stressed five main points — namely, the importance of industrial development as a factor in diversification, the significance of trade in relationship to development, the need for an increasing flow of long-term capital, development of human resources with emphasis on training and education, and the exploration and exploitation of natural resources as a basis for economic development. The Council had also recommended strengthening EPTA and the Special Fund, had drawn attention to the forthcoming Conference on the Application of Science and Technology and had requested the Secretary-General to prepare a further programme of action.

23. At the current session, the Council had to take stock of the achievements of a year. First of all, there was the question of what progress had been made in substantive terms. Some disappointment had been expressed that improvement had not been more rapid and that there had even been retrogression in some sectors. The Council would be reviewing possible measures for accelerating development and achieving a higher national income in the developing countries, and its debate would probably be combined with the consideration of world economic and social trends. The Secretariat might give special attention to the problems of reporting on substantive progress and arranging the agenda so as to facilitate the Council's study. While the Australian delegation for one did not expect the statistics of the Decade to show rapid improvement, it could not share the pessimistic views expressed by the Yugoslav representative, for the achievements of the Development Decade could not be expressed in terms of an arithmetical schedule or an increase by a specified percentage every year; much of the work would naturally lie in preparation and the laying of foundations, and significant results might not be expected for some years to come.

24. The Council had before it a vast amount of documentation on what the United Nations family was doing in connexion with the Development Decade. Indeed, that mass of material could hardly be encompassed by a single human brain, although there were two specific aids to analysing progress. The first was the Work Programme in the Economic, Social and Human Rights Fields (E/3788), which contained a classification of activities arranged under subject headings, and thus had the advantage of enabling the reader to distinguish possible priorities without consulting the report of the agency concerned. The second document was the report of the Special Committee on Co-ordination (E/3778). While the Committee was to be congratulated on its efforts, the final results were somewhat disappointing, obviously owing to the complexity of the task and the short time that the Committee had had at its disposal for dealing with it. The report had resulted in the statement of two sets of broad priorities. The first was an enumeration of five priority areas in terms of fields of activities — the development of international trade, industrial development, development of human resources, development of agricultural production and development of natural resources. Unfortunately, each heading was so broad that the enumeration was not very helpful. The priorities in the second set were described as priority areas in terms of development methods and techniques, and consisted of co-ordinated development planning at the country level, establishment of close and effective relations among development institutes in the economic and social field, and development of measures and techniques for a more effective transfer of knowledge and technology. The Australian delegation, after perusing the report, considered that the problem of improving the selection of priorities was still unsolved. It had been suggested that greater use might be made of ACC in that connexion. Perhaps more detailed proposals could be made in the Co-ordination Committee as to how ACC could be of assistance, for, while all members were aware of the great value of the ACC reports, the Council was scarcely in a position to decide how closer co-operation could be achieved, because it did not have enough knowledge of the ACC methods of work.

25. Reverting to the broader conception of the world evidenced by the initiation of the Development Decade, he observed that a new science of economic and social development was emerging in modern times. Individual countries were no longer left to cope with their own problems, but the question remained of how to accelerate the economic and social development of a world consisting of many independent sovereign States, which were prepared to co-operate in the United Nations and the specialized agencies only up to a certain point. A number of crucial questions arose in connexion with the emerging new science. The first was the question of principles of growth, and the answer differed according to the nature and circumstances of the society, its stage of development and its economic and social system; thus, the developed countries were concerned with maintaining a strong economic demand and persuading consumers to buy new types of articles, while at the other end of the scale there were countries which needed vast social changes. Secondly,

there was the question of the interrelationship between the economic and social aspects of development. In that matter there were two schools of thought, one which insisted that social development should not be neglected in favour of economic development, and the other which claimed that economic development could not be achieved without a certain degree of social development. A third important question was that of the international problems arising from specifically national policies: even highly industrialized countries encountered difficulties when their foreign currency resources dwindled and they felt they should try to check their economic growth; and the whole group of problems of the developing countries were as yet imperfectly understood. Fourthly, there was the whole concept of unequal partners and the growing gap between the incomes of the rich and poor countries; enough was already known about growth to predict a cumulatively rapid expansion in the industrialized countries, and it was consequently hard for the developing countries to be held down to a low level of income. In that connexion, however, the question arose whether the less developed countries were at a positive disadvantage in producing mainly raw materials. All those questions fell within the scope of the new science of economic and social development which was as yet in its infancy, but of which United Nations institutes and higher educational establishments throughout the world were becoming increasingly aware.

26. Mr. GAVRICHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that Soviet delegations to recent sessions of the General Assembly and to the thirty-fourth session of the Council had urged that the programme for the Development Decade should not be symbolical or declarative, since the acceleration of the economic and social development of Asian, African and Latin American countries was one of the vital problems of the modern world. Accordingly, the programme should be prepared constructively, with specific tasks and realistic methods of implementation in mind. Since nearly one-third of the Decade had passed, it was time to take stock of the programme and to determine the extent to which the course that had been taken would really promote the developing countries' economic and social development.

27. As a number of representatives of those countries to the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference on Trade and Development had pointed out, their economic situation gave rise to legitimate alarm and called for a realization of the need to seek urgent solutions for the important problem of closing the gap between the development levels of the developed and developing countries. Indeed, the gap was not being closed, but was continuing to widen. That sad fact confirmed his delegation in its view that economic development could be accelerated only if priorities for development programmes and activities in connexion with the Development Decade were determined in absolutely definite terms.

28. In his delegation's view, certain highly important factors of economic development should be fully taken into account. In the first place, the developing countries should be enabled to establish their own industries, including the construction of enterprises manufacturing

the means of production. Industrialization was a vital problem of development. For example, it was well known that the vast economic power of the United States was based on production of steel and power; since that country owed its economic independence and prosperity to industrialization, it seemed invidious to seek to deny those possibilities to others. The importance of industrialization was further borne out by the fact that, if the Soviet Union had not geared its economy to producing the means of production in the early days of its existence, it would never have attained the great achievements so well known to all developing countries. At the 1275th meeting, the Indian representative had also expressed legitimate concern at the existing structure of foreign trade; and the Indian Government was making great efforts to industrialize the country. A second important factor was the training of national skilled personnel in industry, transport, agriculture, education, health and other sectors. Thirdly, it was essential to conduct radical agrarian reforms, including the transfer of land ownership to those who worked the land. Fourthly, there should be a substantial increase in taxation of the profits of foreign monopolies, with a view to finding sources of financing for the economic development of the countries where foreign capital played a preponderant part. Fifthly, efforts must be made to remedy decisively and rapidly the unequal terms of trade between the developing countries and the advanced capitalist countries. Sixthly, the terms of trade of the developing countries must be improved through the expansion of world trade as a whole. The Soviet delegation was convinced that such measures would accelerate the economic development of the countries concerned and lead to the elimination of all the economic and social consequences of colonialism.

29. His delegation fully shared the views expressed by the representatives of many developing countries concerning the need for respect of their sovereign rights to the enjoyment of their countries' natural resources. Their insistence on an increased share of the profits of foreign companies in their territories and the elimination of unequal terms of trade was perfectly comprehensible, as was their anxiety to increase their capital funds on the basis of equitable international trade, without any discrimination or pressure from monopolies.

30. It was therefore regrettable that so far no specific programme had emerged for the implementation of the General Assembly resolution on the Development Decade. The whole approach to the subject must be more definite and practical; in addition to practical proposals, scientifically based indices should be prepared of the possible rates of economic growth to be achieved by developing countries in the near future. The successful execution of industrialization and development programmes was the basic problem of the Development Decade, and attention should be given to seeking additional resources for attaining those objectives. One of the important factors in that connexion would be the successful conduct of the forthcoming Conference on Trade and Development. Unfortunately, however, the intentions of the United Nations with regard to international trade were more than vague; for example, section XV of the Secretary-General's note on the Development Decade

(E/3776) contained a voluminous description of the activities of GATT in connexion with the Decade, but referred to no practical measures for the future, except for the Ministerial Meeting of GATT which had already taken place.

31. The Secretary-General's report on proposals for action in connexion with the Decade was also impractical and imprecise. That document frequently referred to the difficulties encountered, but in only a few cases gave some timid and vague indications of the measures to be taken to remedy such an abnormal situation. Thus, under chapter V on international trade, the need for a practical approach to the solution of the problem of unequal terms of trade was acknowledged, but it was stated that existing knowledge of the trends did not seem sufficient to venture forecasts of their relative strength. That was indeed surprising in view of the many years of exploitation of the less developed countries by imperialistic monopolies through high monopolistic prices and unequal terms of trade. Moreover, the authors of the report did not mention the basic reasons for the deterioration in the developing countries' terms of trade; yet specific proposals for overcoming the difficulties could not be found without seeking the real reasons for the existing situation.

32. The Soviet delegation was also unable to agree with the statement in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's note (E/3776) that such important matters as the economic effects of disarmament, and sovereignty over national resources, were not directly linked to the Development Decade. Such an important source of financing for economic development as the funds which would be freed by disarmament should not be ignored in a debate on United Nations activities during the Decade; the Managing Director of the Special Fund had drawn attention to that question in his statement at the 1274th meeting. Furthermore, respect for and restoration of the sovereign rights of the developing countries to enjoyment of their natural resources were no less important conditions for their rapid development. The many useful recommendations of General Assembly resolution 1710 (XVI) were not being carried out, and there was as yet no rational plan for the utilization of United Nations technical assistance programmes and the Special Fund for the practical and urgent construction of industrial enterprises in the developing countries, including the training of technical personnel and the provision of scientific and technical information.

33. If the Development Decade were really to promote the development of the less developed countries and if it were not to remain an empty phrase or declaration, practical action must be taken and specific measures must be planned to promote economic growth, industrialization and social progress.

34. Mr. THOMAS (United Kingdom) recalled that at the thirty-fourth session (1215th meeting) he had taken as his opening theme the concept of self-sustaining growth, which was the ultimate aim of the United Nations Development Decade. He would like at the outset on that occasion to draw the Council's attention not only to the word "development", but to the words "United Nations", which gave the Decade its true flavour.

35. Development was to some extent a continuing process, extending through history. The particular importance of the Decade lay in the fact that the United Nations had decided to play an unprecedented part in contributing to, and therefore accelerating, the process of development. The tendency was to think of development primarily in terms of the developing countries; it must not, however, be forgotten that the United Nations itself was also developing and must continue to do so if it were to be capable of dealing effectively with new problems as they arose. An excellent example to illustrate the situation he had in mind was provided in the Secretary-General's report on the Work Programme, where it was stated that ECA was engaged on a programme of work ranging from determination of the age of rocks and minerals by radioactive methods to the study of trans-Saharan transport problems. Eighteen years previously, when the United Nations had been founded, the method of study employed in the first example had been unknown, and as recently as six years previously, ECA had not existed.

36. The rate of progress thus implied was truly remarkable. Again, in his statement under agenda item 15 at the 1271st meeting, the Secretary-General had drawn attention to ways in which changes in world knowledge and in the application of science and technology could change the scale and character of many of the problems to be dealt with and indeed change the form of many of the tools employed. The Secretary-General's statement had emphasized the need for keeping the Organization alert to such changes and for maintaining a flexible and far-sighted approach to them. The part played by the United Nations itself was of the very greatest significance, for the United Nations did not only respond passively to those changes in the world, but could actively create them.

37. Since 1945, the world community had achieved much both in the political sphere and in the economic and social fields. It was the high aim of the Development Decade that that rate of progress should not just be maintained, but should be increased in the years to come. If that object was to be achieved, the world community must recognize its debt to the Organization that had made it possible and do its utmost to ensure that the Organization as a whole was strong and healthy enough to sustain and to promote the desired rate of growth.

38. When, therefore, consideration was given to the many facets of the Development Decade, the importance of the United Nations itself should be kept firmly in mind. There was no point in discussing, for example, the expansion of the Centre for Industrial Development, the future plans of EPTA and the Special Fund, and so on, unless there could be some assurance that the parent organization would continue to provide a firm and strong foundation for constructive work in the future.

39. The basic essential in that respect was the peace of the world. There were some who believed that peace-keeping operations were peripheral to the main purposes of the United Nations, and who would apparently be content with an organization that would confine itself to discussing ways of improving the economic prospects in one part of the world while allowing war to rage in another part. That was dangerous nonsense, and had

certainly no place in the ideals which had led to the formation of the United Nations. No organization which had a claim to responsibility and authority, whether in the national or in the international sphere, could abdicate responsibility for peace, order and stability. No one could repose any confidence in a United Nations which abandoned the peace-keeping responsibilities written so large in its charter.

40. He made no apology for mentioning that subject, for the question of world peace and stability was relevant to all the debates of the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies. Without peace there could be no development, and peace-keeping, like development, had to be paid for. The question was still more relevant when the future was discussed in terms of controlled expansion. None of the Council's members could afford to forget that any decisions the Council made would depend on the continued strength and solvency of the United Nations as a whole and on its capacity to ensure a world order in which development could be meaningfully discussed.

41. In connexion with the progress of the Development Decade itself, although the Secretary-General's report (E/3776) contained a wealth of information on what the United Nations family was doing in the context of the Decade, it still did not contain anything like the complete work programmes of the organizations involved. All those programmes had their separate parts to play in achieving the objectives of the Decade, as had also all the other activities in the form of bilateral assistance, private investment and — perhaps most important of all — the national and regional efforts of the developing countries themselves. It was particularly encouraging to note that the report drew attention to those activities, for they often tended to be ignored, perhaps because they were lacking in immediate spectacular impact on economic growth. He was thinking particularly of work on such matters as child welfare and the studies in social science, which had an essential part to play in enriching the way of life of the peoples of the developing countries.

42. The documents before the Council on the subject of co-ordination offered a particularly good opportunity both for evaluating the work and the machinery of the organizations within the United Nations family and for taking a general view of the bodies working in the co-ordination field. The report of the Special Committee on Co-ordination (E/3778) clearly revealed the difficulty of discussing those problems on the basis of the reports from the various organizations, which were naturally general in scope. It would perhaps have been more useful to have had some more precise and less abstract discussion of the difficulties, illustrated by concrete examples from the reports. No doubt the reason for such omission was that members of the Committee had not had sufficient time to study in detail the reports in question.

43. The twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth reports of ACC (E/3695 and E/3765) showed a good record in the Committee's sphere of competence, and his delegation welcomed what had been done thus far. It particularly agreed with the Committee's aims in education and training: to facilitate collaboration at the technical level and to stress the need for all programmes to fit into and

contribute to national plans of social and economic development (E/3765, para. 75). His delegation also considered that the chapter on the co-ordination of emergency action in cases of natural disaster in the twenty-eighth report was a very worth while initiative which emphasized the need for co-ordination problems to be tackled in a forward-looking way, without waiting for difficulties to arise.

44. The specialized agencies and ACC had done particularly good work on co-ordination, and by concentrating particularly on the role of the resident representatives and on co-ordination at the country level they had solved many problems that had been of concern to the Council in earlier years. On the other hand, atomic energy still presented problems of an exceptional and difficult nature. His delegation accordingly hoped to present some proposals to ACC on the question of the co-ordination of activities in that field.

45. Atomic energy was in a transitional phase. Atomic power was not yet fully competitive with other forms of power in most areas of the world, and the use of radioactive materials in medicine and in agriculture, although growing fast, had not yet reached the stage where those devices were the customary tools of a particular trade. At the moment, the gap between research and practical application was a very wide one, and the attempt to bridge it gave rise to many real problems of co-ordination between pure science on the one hand and between industry and agriculture, for example, on the other, as well as between different professional disciplines, different industries, and different national and international agencies.

46. Those problems would not be solved by seeking to define the various fields of study and operation too rigorously at the current stage. In a field which was so new and was changing so rapidly, there would be a serious danger of providing too rigid a framework which might obstruct progress. Laws and rules, however well-intentioned, sometimes outlived their usefulness, and nowhere more so than in areas of rapid technical change. Mistakes in the atomic energy field, as well as unnecessary duplication of effort, could prove extremely expensive. It seemed better, therefore, to approach those matters in a flexible and forward-looking way so that, by preparing for co-operation and practical collaboration, such difficulties as might arise from time to time could be overcome. His delegation's proposals were conceived in that spirit.

47. With reference to the contributions which the specialized agencies had made to the Development Decade, he would single out one activity of FAO which was exceptional. The Freedom from Hunger Campaign had provided an opportunity for the people of the more developed countries to show in a concrete way the importance which they attached to the aims of the Decade. It was doubtful whether any comparable campaign, except perhaps the World Refugee Year, had received such wide publicity in the United Kingdom or indeed evoked a wider response from its people. United Kingdom voluntary organizations had already approved projects to the value of over \$4 million, thus providing ample proof that the efforts which the United Kingdom

Government had made and would continue to make in the technical assistance field were fully supported by the people. The role of FAO was of such crucial importance in the struggle for a better standard of living in the world that it was regrettable that certain founder Members of the United Nations had not so far contributed to its work.

48. In connexion with the activities of the United Nations itself, his delegation was glad that EPTA and the Special Fund had continued most effectively to undertake the leading parts assigned to them under the Development Decade. The confidence of both donors and recipient countries was shown by the fact that the resources available to those two bodies and the demands made upon them had continued to grow. Their undoubted success was due to truly excellent management. At the 1274th meeting the Secretary-General had referred to a possible rearrangement of the duties of the Managing Director of the Fund and the Executive Chairman of TAB; if the Council found such a change desirable, the Secretary-General would report accordingly to the *ad hoc* Committee of Ten.

49. His government's support for EPTA and the Special Fund was demonstrated by the fact that the United Kingdom pledge for 1963 was 25 per cent higher than that for 1962, and the contribution was then running at \$10 million. If the programmes were to continue to play their most useful part in assisting the developing countries in a way which they themselves decided on, it was essential that all the developed countries should contribute their fair share, in accordance with their abilities and without restriction as to the use to which their contributions could be put or the area where they could be spent.

50. He had therefore been surprised to hear the statement by the USSR representative at the 1270th meeting that in his view all contributions to technical assistance funds should be made in national currencies. The general adoption of that course would limit the use which could be made of the funds contributed by tying it to the convenience of the donor and not to the wishes of the recipient. Difficulties had already arisen in some agencies as a result of that type of limitation. He did not understand, therefore, why the Soviet Union should seek to persuade other countries to insist on that restriction.

51. What was more disturbing, however, was the extension of that limitation from voluntary contributions to the United Nations regular budget. Any country might stipulate conditions for the use of contributions it made voluntarily, and there were a number which thus restricted the use of all or part of their contributions. The Soviet Union, however, had recently announced that its contribution to technical assistance activities financed from the United Nations regular budget was to be made in the form of unconvertible currency. That decision would actually result either in the provision of Soviet bilateral aid under the auspices of the United Nations or in recipient countries being deprived of some United Nations assistance. The United Kingdom had no objection to bilateral aid, which was indeed essential if the developing countries were to benefit fully from the sharing of wealth

by the advanced countries. It seemed wrong, however, that tied Soviet bilateral aid should be disguised as United Nations aid. If other countries followed the same course in all their contributions, the effect on the existing United Nations system of technical assistance would be incalculable and it might well have the effect of making multilateral aid impossible. He hoped, therefore, that the Soviet Government would reconsider that decision and accept in that field responsibility and sacrifice commensurate with its size and development in relation to other countries.

52. The Secretary-General continued to attach great importance to the OPEX programme, which had proved extremely popular and was well designed to bridge the gap between reliance on technical assistance and self-sustaining growth. The United Kingdom had supported a proposal in TAC to allow a portion of EPTA funds to be used for that purpose, so that effective financial support of the programme could be assured. The United Kingdom's Department of Technical Co-operation continued to devote nearly half its budget — some \$45 million a year — to the Overseas Service Aid Scheme, which worked on the same principles.

53. The importance which his government attached to the objects of the Development Decade emerged perhaps more clearly from figures than from words. During the previous financial year, 1.33 per cent of the gross national product had gone to the developing countries in the form of grants, loans and other investments — a figure which represented the equivalent of over one week's pay from each working member of the population. It would become clear from what his delegation said in the Council committees during the session that it did not expect the United Nations to rest on its laurels, and he could assure the Council that his government did not intend to do so either. It remained firmly pledged to the objectives of the Development Decade and to its obligations in fulfilling them.

54. Mr. REVOL (France) said that in considering the topics making up items 4 and 6 of the agenda, he was hoping that the Council would examine not only the theoretical aspects of co-ordination, but also its practical aspects, with a view to deciding on a line of action made essential by the increasing complexity of the position. Its aim should, in fact, be to achieve, after due reflection and in a concrete and practical manner, satisfactory balance between the available means and the objectives to be achieved. It must therefore concentrate its attention on the facts, and the French delegation welcomed the very detailed account of those facts which the Secretary-General had given.

55. So far, the Council's efforts of co-ordination had been directed mainly, particularly in resolution 920 (XXXIV), at establishing an order of priority for the projects and regions which engaged the activity of the United Nations. Those efforts, while necessary, did not, however, appear to have solved the problem. The order of priority proposed by the Secretary-General in his report on Integrated Programme and Budget Policy (E/3741), as well as the similar one prepared by the Special Committee on Co-ordination (E/3778), was in the main a logical one

and reflected, on the whole, the views of the French delegation; yet he did not believe that it could provide the broad and relatively stable framework, which, notwithstanding the natural development of the problems, would ensure a co-ordinated action. The Council should not concentrate its efforts only on priorities, but also and primarily on procedure and methods.

✓56. He noted that four bodies concerned with co-ordination were operating in specific sectors and sometimes in different directions. They were: the Co-ordination Committee, set up in 1947, which had subsequently become ACC; the Council Co-ordination Committee; the *ad hoc* Working Group set up in 1960; and the Special Committee on Co-ordination established in 1962. Members of the Council were finding it increasingly difficult to follow the work of those four committees, and it would perhaps be logical to introduce some simplification and make a selection from them, for, except in certain particulars, their functions were similar. In the ACC, the Council possessed an indispensable instrument for that purpose, at least with regard to the essential points. It appeared, however, that since the addition of the qualifying term "administrative", the former Committee on Co-ordination had been reduced to a administrative body for the internal use of the Organization; the Council remained unaware of a considerable part of its deliberations, which was all the more regrettable since ACC dealt with real and concrete problems of co-ordination. Being thus ignorant of part of the work of ACC, the Council was unable to fulfil its co-ordination function, as it was unaware of the problems which arose. The French delegation had been glad to note that its views coincided with those expressed by the Secretary-General and by some of the specialized agencies, particularly the ILO, which at the 1274th meeting had expressed itself in favour of a closer collaboration between the Council and ACC, and envisaged the use for that purpose of some recognized institutional form. Such an arrangement would enable the Committee to regain the position of priority that it was tending to lose amidst the confusion resulting from the creation of effort, responsibility and, in the last resort, possibilities of action.

57. A similar solution could be applied to the co-ordination of technical assistance. It had been suggested, on several occasions, that the various bodies responsible for technical assistance might be combined; and it might be worth considering, without pre-judging the substance of the matter, whether the Council should note in that connexion, have at its disposal a committee fulfilling a function similar to that which could be assumed, at the general level, by a reconstituted ACC. The Consultative Board of the Special Fund could discharge that function for the Council if it were amalgamated with TAB, on which all the specialized organizations were represented.

✓58. As to the United Nations Development Decade, the French delegation had given very close attention to the work of the Special Committee on Co-ordination, whose principal task was to co-ordinate the activities undertaken by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in connexion with the Development Decade. The Decade did not introduce a new element into the sphere of co-

ordination, for though it might modify the relative proportions of the problems, it could not change their nature. For that reason, the remarks he had expressed concerning procedure and methods were equally applicable to the specific case of the Decade. On the other hand, the Decade opened up new prospects in regard to the problems tackled and hence to the appropriate means for meeting the needs expressed.

59. He would deal with the Secretary-General's note on the Development Decade (E/3776), which the Council had received in connexion with item 6 (a), when he discussed the activities of the various specialized agencies. On item 6 (b), the Council had before it a report by the Secretary-General (E/3780) recommending the establishment of a United Nations training and research institute; and in his statement at the 1274th meeting the Secretary-General had stressed the great importance he attached to the idea. The French delegation was not certain that in preferring the establishment of such an institute to the implementation of a training programme, the Secretary-General had chosen the best solution, for, as the Indian representative had pointed out at the 1275th meeting with good reason, the setting up of the institute would be of only marginal relevance to the Decade. The objective in view, and it was one that had always had the support of the French delegation, was to develop in depth the training of the qualified personnel who were essential for any improvement of economic and social development. Despite the several existing national regional institutes, his delegation thought that the organization of seminars and training periods for officials already qualified at the national level offered a more effective solution. Studies should, in fact, be so organized as to keep the trainees in contact with local conditions rather than turning out agents trained in an abstract universalism. There might, moreover, be a certain problem of recruitment, since suitable applicants could be obtained only by withdrawing the best personnel from the new regional economic development institutes; it might be more advisable, in the circumstances, to contribute to the success of the institutes by furnishing them with a training programme elaborated and adapted to local conditions, for the execution of which they themselves would be responsible.

60. With regard to the proposals submitted by the Water Resources Development Centre for a priority programme of co-ordinated action in that field, which formed the subject of item 6 (c), the French delegation, while attaching great importance to the Centre's activities, believed, nevertheless, that they were open to certain objections, due perhaps to the imprecise formulation of the terms of reference of the Centre, which was intended to provide co-ordination and guidance and which should not, therefore, tend to engage in operational tasks that were the responsibility of the specialized agencies. The difficulty could perhaps be overcome by a stricter mutual discipline. The Centre should eschew any activity going beyond its role of co-ordination and study. For their part, the specialized agencies should confine themselves to the distribution of the tasks suggested by the Centre. That might well constitute one of the most useful activities which ACC could undertake. It seemed likely, moreover,

that the strictly defined establishment of centres responsible, within the United Nations Secretariat, for co-ordinating specific activities devolving upon several different agencies might provide a solution for some of the problems the Council was considering.

61. With reference to the reports of the specialized agencies, and bearing in mind the Secretary-General's observations on the matter, he wished to draw the attention of all the specialized agencies to the dangers inherent in the continuing increase in their regular expenditure, the aggregate of which had doubled in five years, without mentioning the even greater increase in their extra-budgetary expenditure. His delegation viewed that development with alarm, the more so, as several speakers in the debate had called for further increases to meet certain needs, more particularly in the sphere of science and technology.

62. His delegation had welcomed the remarkable statement by the representative of the International Labour Office made at the 1274th meeting. The ILO had experienced a crisis which might have shaken it, if its traditions of responsibility and its sound tripartite structure had not enabled it to look to a solution with confidence. His delegation firmly adhered to the view that the specialized agencies — and the Council — should not attempt to take the place of political organs.

63. In connexion with the work of the ILO on vocational training, reference had been made to the forthcoming inauguration of an International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training at Turin. It was not certain whether a single institution of such size and intended for all continents was best designed to provide a training which had perhaps better be imparted locally. However, if the Centre were developed prudently and progressively, it would be welcome as a major effort to train qualified personnel.

64. Having already dealt at length with the activities of UNESCO in connexion with scientific and technical problems, his delegation would merely repeat that France attached great importance to its work and remind that organization of the dangers of dispersal of efforts with which it was constantly threatened by the very broadness of its terms of reference. Those dangers had become particularly acute in the presence of the inevitable trend to give development high priority in the work of UNESCO. The same observation applied to FAO, which should be congratulated on the success of the World Food Congress at Washington.

65. The work of WHO was entirely satisfactory, and France was glad to be able to continue its co-operation with it in the training of medical practitioners for the Congo (Leopoldville). The Council might also wish to be reminded of the existence of a WHO Advisory Committee on Medical Research, which might, to some extent, serve as a precedent for the committee which the Secretary-General had suggested should be set up for science and technology as applied to development.

66. The activities of the other specialized agencies, which were providing a true public service, were particularly satisfactory. That applied to ITU, which was taking an

active interest in problems of outer space; UPU, which merited the gratitude of all for its indirect role in expanding the dissemination of thought and information; WMO, which, like ITU, was concerned with outer space and was unfortunately requiring greatly increased funds owing to the legitimate expansion of its activities; IMCO, which was gradually coming to occupy its due place and might, if necessary, take part in EPTA; ICAO, which should be congratulated on its co-operation with the other agencies, including more particularly WMO, and on the consolidation of its regional centres in Paris for Europe and at Dakar for Africa; and, lastly, IAEA, which had co-ordinated its work with most of the other agencies, as the role of atomic energy in all human activities expanded. The time had come to redefine the Agency's functions with a view to sound co-ordination, and his delegation would support any arrangement which might be made for that purpose.

✓ 67. In the matter of decentralization of the regional economic commissions, he recalled that the French delegation had already expounded their role and functions. The commissions and their secretariats were respectively subject to the authority of the Council and of the Secretary-General, according to the principle of vertical co-ordination.

68. In viewing the activities of the specialized agencies and the Council's subsidiary bodies from the larger angle of their potential and the Council's role with regard to all the organizations, his delegation associated itself fully with the Secretary-General's call for a consolidation of the budget at its current level and for a general reduction in the number of certain meetings to be held by the Council or its subsidiary bodies. A careful choice should, in fact, be made of meetings which should be retained and the calendar should be pruned of those which were not absolutely essential. It would be most unfortunate, on the grounds of economy, to destroy essential machinery, but nothing would be more helpful than to cut down to their proper size some bodies that had benefited from routine procedure and the disposal of responsibility to decide themselves the extent of their importance. In that way, the Council had an opportunity of restoring and affirming its authority over the many organs dependent upon it directly or through its subordinate bodies.

69. Mr. HILL (International Chamber of Commerce), speaking at the invitation of the President, said he would make no apology for again addressing the Council on the contribution which his organization was making to the Development Decade, for everyone would agree that the major economic problems of the day, eclipsing all others, was that of hastening economic development in the less fortunate countries. The International Chamber of Commerce had once again stressed the importance of that problem at its recent congress in Mexico City, where particular emphasis had been placed on the interdependence of nations, both developing and developed, as a condition of economic growth. The conclusions reached by the congress had been circulated in document E/C.2/610.

70. The basic aim of his organization was the expansion of trade, as the vital factor in raising living standards

throughout the world. Its Executive Committee, meeting after the Mexico City congress, had adopted a 22-point programme for the expansion of international trade which was described in full in document E/C.2/616. Special attention was given throughout to the problems and needs of the developing countries.

71. The time had come to make a major international effort to expand and develop international trade for the benefit of all countries of the world, and the Chamber of Commerce suggested that the effort should take the form of far-reaching trade negotiations. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development would, it was hoped, give the desired impetus to such negotiations, whose success would largely depend upon the presence of all countries having a substantial interest in world trade.

72. As a basic rule for those negotiations, his organization favoured the general application of the linear method of tariff reductions. The marginal benefits to be derived by developing countries should be extended without requiring reciprocal concessions. Where, however, a developing country was the major beneficiary of a particular concession, some form of concession in return — for instance, in the field of capital goods — should be found which would not seriously affect its revenue or retard its economic growth. It was hoped that the rule would be needed for temporary application only.

73. In the case of raw materials, whether or not graded or subjected to simple processing, it was recommended that the full percentage reduction should be applied without exception, that duties not exceeding 5 per cent should be rapidly eliminated, and that non-tariff obstacles should be removed without any concession on the part of the developing countries.

74. On tropical products, the Chamber of Commerce generally endorsed GATT resolution of 21 May 1963, relating to the expansion of trade of developing countries. Free access to the main markets should be guaranteed for both tropical products in crude form and after simple processing. The rules recommended for manufactured goods should also apply to temperate zone agricultural products. In view of the immense difficulties involved, however, his organization envisaged the possibility of negotiating worldwide agreements on a basis different from that of traditional commodity agreements. Such agreements should take due account of the interests of primary producing developing countries and should be supplemented by international arrangements for the disposal of surpluses in the most useful manner.

75. The most valuable aid to any developed country was aid in the form of investment, which resulted in creating jobs and demand and in the transfer of knowledge and skills, all of which had a vital role to play in enabling a country to become economically viable. Private enterprise was the principal purveyor of effective technical assistance. The Council was familiar with the problems involved in promoting the international flow of private capital. The Mexico City congress had studied the possibilities of combining a multilateral investment insurance scheme with a code of fair treatment for foreign

investments and negotiated reductions of tax barriers. The whole problem remained under study in co-operation with the appropriate intergovernmental organizations.

76. In the field of technical assistance, his organization had been active in areas where its specialized knowledge enabled it to fill gaps left by national and international programmes. Under its programmes for training Chamber of Commerce executives, thirty trainees from developing countries had undergone or were undergoing training in seven industrialized countries. In conjunction with the Union of International Fairs, it was offering assistance in regard to trade fairs; the aim was to put at the disposal of the United Nations in developing countries experts in the organization of those important international market places. In the Far East, use had been made of the long experience of the Chamber of Commerce Court of Arbitration, which had acted as a consultative body in the foundation of arbitration centres and in the promotion of arbitration generally. His organization's model law on trade marks, trade names and unfair competition continued to provide a basis for the drafting of national legislation in developing countries.

77. In view of the vital importance of distribution and advertising in promoting economic development, a programme in those two fields was to be implemented over the coming two years. The projected Asian bankers'

seminar was scheduled to take place in Teheran in April 1964, and good results were looked for in the study of the problems confronting banks and financial institutions in the developing countries, including the training of bank executives and the best means for banks to promote economic growth. In the same sector, the International Chamber of Commerce Uniform Customs and Practice for Commercial Documentary Credits had come into force on 1 July 1963 on a worldwide basis; the resulting application of standard rules would greatly facilitate international financial transactions.

78. Nearly all his organization's studies were of relevance to the Development Decade; all the questions involved were interdependent and the final aim might best be summed up in the slogan "Trade, not aid". Everywhere there was growing awareness that no nation or group of nations could "go it alone" without drifting away from the main stream of human progress. But that awareness needed to be translated into the everyday realities of economic life. Men must learn to think more internationally, to see the world as a whole, and in their actions recognize the need for constant give-and-take in every field of endeavour. Only thus could balanced economic growth throughout the world be achieved.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.