



CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 11:	
Industrial development (<i>concluded</i>)	243
Agenda item 26:	
Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	245
Agenda item 16:	
Question of procedures for the revision of the International Convention on Road Traffic and of the Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, done at Geneva, 19 September 1949	251
Agenda item 17:	
United Nations Technical Conference on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale	252

President : Mr. A. PATIÑO (Colombia)

Present :

Representatives of the following States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, 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, Brazil, China, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania.

Observer for the following non-member State: Federal Republic of Germany.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Health Organization.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

AGENDA ITEM 11

Industrial development (E/3781) (*concluded*)

1. Mr. WODAK (Austria) remarked that, at the 1271st meeting, introducing to the Council the report on the Conference on the Application of Science and Technology for the benefit of the Less Developed Areas (E/3772 and Corr.2 and Add.1), the Secretary-General

had stressed the importance of the United Nations work on industrial development, since it was in that sphere that the most effective economic use was made of the achievements of modern science. The close connexion between the transfer of scientific and technological knowledge on the one hand and industrialization on the other had been plainly brought out in the Committee for Industrial Development.

2. His delegation favoured a pragmatic and practical approach to the United Nations work on industrial development. Strict general rules should not be applied, since the widely varying conditions in the developing countries necessitated a flexible approach and the adjustment of working methods to specific needs.

3. Industrialization was essentially a continuous and long-term process which would eventually change the pattern of the world economy. The United Nations family, and in particular the Industrial Development Centre, would certainly have an important role to play in that process, and from the outset work should be based on the experience already amassed by the industrial countries of the world. In that connexion, he would draw attention to a suggestion made by the Austrian representative at the third session of the Committee for Industrial Development to the effect that a register be kept of all resources, literature and assistance available in that sphere. Comprehensive information of the kind, together with the financial advice available from the Special Fund, would enable the developing countries to make the best choice for their purposes.

4. Pending the submission of the report on training of national technical personnel for industrialization called for by General Assembly resolution 1824 (XVII), the Committee for Industrial Development had touched but briefly on the important question of mobilization of human resources. As a co-sponsor of the Assembly resolution, his delegation was looking forward to the report with the utmost interest; the mobilization of human resources was a question that could not be separated from that of industrialization in general.

5. An effective organizational instrument for the work was equally important, and there had been suggestions recently that a change in the organizational structure might be necessary. The organization must remain the tool and not an aim in itself; efforts should therefore be directed to establishing the preconditions of effective action. He therefore endorsed the conclusions of the Advisory Committee of Experts (E/3781, annex VIII), to the effect that organizational changes or intensification of the work, though necessary, should take place within the United Nations framework. He further supported

the conclusion that a comprehensive report on all the activities of the United Nations family in industrial development should be available before a final decision on the machinery was taken. That was a wise suggestion; and his delegation therefore supported the draft resolution proposed by the Committee for Industrial Development in its report (E/3781, para. 148).

6. To sum up, the Austrian delegation fully recognized the far-reaching importance of industrialization for the developing countries; greatly appreciated the work done by the Industrial Development Centre in its short period of life and was of the opinion that the expansion of the Centre's activities should be so organized as not to break the continuity of the work. Austria was glad to participate in the work of the Committee for Industrial Development and to share with others its experience as an industrialized country.

7. In conclusion, he commended the outgoing Commissioner for Industrial Development for the leadership he had given in laying the foundation for future United Nations work in that sphere.

8. Mr. BOGLIETTI (World Federation of Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that in the opinion of the workers of the developing countries efforts aimed at ensuring the expansion of the economy should be concerned primarily with industrialization, the utilization of national resources and the modernization of agriculture.

9. A certain number of United Nations organs were concerned with industrial development. In that connexion, the World Federation thought, like the Advisory Committee of Experts, that there was a lack of balance between the large sums which the United Nations and the specialized agencies devoted to infrastructure and the inadequate resources allocated to manufacturing industries.

10. His organization had also been interested in the programme of work which the Committee for Industrial Development proposed to undertake in the field of industrialization. It was becoming urgently necessary to ensure more thorough co-ordination, if not a "vertical" centralization of all industrial development activities, while establishing a "horizontal" decentralization at the level of the regional economic commissions. In that way, the administrative formalities which the developing countries had to fulfil in order to obtain assistance would be simplified. The Federation, therefore, supported the draft resolution submitted to the Council by the Committee for Industrial Development in its report.

11. At that time, there was general agreement that the industrial sector was an essential dynamic element in economic growth, a fact which ought to induce the United Nations and governments to consider the necessary measures for bringing about industrial development. At that stage, the public sector should be the most important factor in the developing countries. Moreover, the United Nations and the specialized agencies were inter-governmental organs, and it was not very clear how they could provide assistance to the private sector without losing that character. That sector was benefiting by

action taken at the national level in the fields of education, occupational training, housing, health, and the like, and it was attracting considerable private capital, which, incidentally, was not aimed at promoting the national interest. The United Nations should help the underdeveloped countries to direct private investment towards the programmes prepared by the governments themselves.

12. Industrial and agricultural development was assuming a new aspect in the States which had just attained independence. As the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of Algeria had stated, the national economy of those countries included a socialized sector, a semi-public sector and a private sector. If the last-named benefited by technical assistance, it was only fair that assistance should also be granted to the two other sectors.

13. The Federation was disturbed by the contents of paragraphs 91 and 92 of the report on the social aspects of industrialization. Although the Committee had emphasized the role of trade unions in the process of economic development, its ideas seemed to mark a retreat in relation to those which it had expressed at the second session. As worded, paragraph 92 ascribed a secondary role to the trade unions in industrial development, planning and the programming of development. The workers had shown, however, not only in the socialist countries, but also in other countries, that they could take decisive action in that respect. The successes which they had scored confirmed the correctness of the programme adopted by the Fifth World Congress of Trade Unions, which provided for participation by the workers, in complete independence, in the preparation and organization of economic programmes and in the development of the national economy.

14. Trade unions were no longer at the stage where they confined their attention to the apportionment of the share of the national income which it was agreed that the workers should be allowed to receive. It was desirable, therefore, that the Economic and Social Council should give due consideration to the experience gained by the trade union movement; for that experience could give a new stimulus to the industrial development of the developing countries.

15. Mr. MAYOBRE, Commissioner for Industrial Development, expressing first his thanks to the members of the Council for their encouraging commendation of the work of the Industrial Development Centre, said that it was to the Centre's devoted and able staff that the thanks were largely due; they would, he was sure, ably second the efforts of the incoming Commissioner in the new major activities waiting to be undertaken.

16. What was more important, however, was to thank the Council for the many basic ideas on the Centre's work that had been put forward during the discussion, thus supplementing the valuable instructions and recommendations made by the Committee for Industrial Development. Due note had been taken of all the suggestions that had been made.

17. On the question of organizational structure, he recognized that it was for governments to decide the most

appropriate way of organizing the work. The fact was, however, that whatever the organizational structure, United Nations activities in industrial development were being extended and expanded. The establishment of the Centre had in itself led to new requests for technical assistance in industrial development, and the decisions of the Advisory Committee of Experts had been taken with a view to enlarging the Centre's research activities. The Centre had had the maximum possible support from all sides from TAB and technical assistance bodies in general, as well as from the Special Fund. But that was only one aspect of the matter. The possibility of using the Centre's services should be taken into account from the inception of government requests for assistance under the Special Fund and EPTA right through to the execution of projects. The regional economic commissions should therefore also bear the Centre's existence in mind so as to be able to meet the steadily growing volume of requests which would flow in as the campaign for industrialization in the developing countries gained impetus.

18. While it must be recognized that there should be greater discipline within the United Nations in the matter of financing, the Centre's work could not be expanded without an increase in resources.

19. A tribute should be paid to the goodwill and co-operation of the specialized agencies.

20. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution contained in paragraph 148 of the report of the Committee for Industrial Development (E/3781).

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

21. The PRESIDENT submitted the following draft resolution for the Council's consideration:

"The Economic and Social Council

"1. Takes note of the report of the Committee for Industrial Development on its third session (E/3781);

"2. Endorses the programme of work contained in the report."

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 26

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/3777; E/L.1026, E/L.1027)

22. Mr. SCHNYDER (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), introducing the report (E/3777) which he submitted annually to the General Assembly, said that a new phase was opening in the activities of the High Commissioner's Office owing to the extension of its mandate until 31 December 1968, and he would like to outline briefly the nature of those activities and their likely future development. Although the activities of the High Commissioner's Office involving international protection and the quest for permanent solutions were closely related, they nevertheless differed in their nature. Protection dealt with a legal problem linked with the very concept of the refugee, whereas the quest for permanent

solutions, stimulated by the complementary assistance programme of the High Commissioner's Office, involved assistance, the amount and conditions of which were closely related to the magnitude and nature of the needs and the relative ability of the receiving countries to meet them from their own resources, and it also relied on a positive effort by the international community.

23. So far as international protection was concerned, he was glad to note that eight more States, including some African States, had acceded to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, thus bringing the number of States parties to the Convention to forty-two and reflecting increased recognition of the concept and rights of the refugee.

24. Progress had been made in several directions, and his office had followed the debate on the draft declaration on the right of asylum with the greatest interest, as that right was a prerequisite of all the other rights which might subsequently be granted to refugees. Although international protection was the essence of the High Commissioner's task, it would very frequently remain ineffectual unless combined with an effort by the international community to lighten the burden constituted by refugees on the receiving countries. The concerted action undertaken for that purpose by the international community through his office was bearing fruit: about 12,000 refugees had been resettled in the past year, the camp clearance programme was continuing at a satisfactory rate and the non-settled refugees living outside camps had been much helped by the favourable economic conditions currently prevailing in Europe.

25. There was also the problem of handicapped refugees. As a result of the admirable survey undertaken by Dr. Jensen¹ among 850 refugees selected from the most seriously handicapped, 300 had been resettled. He had recently been informed by the Australian Government of its intention to receive in the near future an estimated one-third of the cases submitted to it; approximately one hundred persons would thus enjoy the facilities extended to immigrants arriving under government programmes.

26. There were therefore good grounds for believing that, thanks to the sympathetic attitude of governments, the programme approved in 1962 by the Executive Committee would be fully implemented. That, it would be remembered, was a programme of \$6,800,000 of which \$5,400,000 was reserved for "old" European refugees, and it was to be completed by the beginning of 1965 at the latest.

27. With the mortgage of the past thus redeemed, assistance to European refugees would assume proportions corresponding to the current aspects of a problem which would no longer call for shock treatment. The day-to-day action necessary to forestall any fresh accumulation of destitute refugees had for the first time been incorporated in the part of the 1963 programme devoted to comple-

¹ Issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, October, 1962.

mentary assistance. That action was indeed marginal, since the leading part in it must be played by the governments concerned, which, with the assistance of the voluntary agencies, whose magnificent efforts were highly commendable, had to meet the financial burden of receiving and resettling the refugees to whom they granted asylum without regard to age or to physical or professional ability. The results recorded after the first complementary assistance programme for European refugees had been in operation for several months proved beyond doubt that the right road had been taken; but they also indicated that below a certain level assistance lost all effect. For that reason the sums allotted for complementary assistance would have to be reviewed when the 1964 budget was drawn up.

28. The new refugee problems to which the High Commissioner's Office must devote a large part of its attention called for material assistance rather than legal protection. The obstacles to be overcome were therefore practical and related in particular to temporary housing, distribution of food, cultivation of virgin land and the supply to the refugees of the equipment and seeds necessary to enable them to become self-supporting as early as possible. Although the repatriation of Algerian refugees had been satisfactorily completed with the active assistance of his office, it had remained in contact with the Algerian authorities in order to decide what use should be made, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 1672 (XVI), of the funds placed at its disposal for the completion of the task entrusted to it. He would like to stress in that connexion that though the action by his office had entered its final stage, the same could not be said of the assistance to the needy Algerian populations, to which the voluntary agencies as well as other national and international bodies were still actively contributing.

29. Assistance given to the Togo refugees, the refugees from Angola in the Congo (Leopoldville) and the refugees from Rwanda merited attention. The High Commissioner's Office had taken great care to co-ordinate its action as closely as possible not only with the governments concerned and with the voluntary organizations, but also with the various United Nations organs and organizations engaged in similar work appropriate to their own aims. The presence of refugees must not be allowed to compromise the economic and social development of the receiving country, but provision must be made to ensure that they contributed usefully towards it. Thus, the ILO had undertaken a systematic survey of the development possibilities of those areas of the Congo and Burundi where the Rwanda refugees were being settled, and was endeavouring to obtain the co-operation of other organizations such as FAO and UNESCO for the purpose of preparing a regional development plan which would apply without distinction to refugees and to the indigenous population and would constitute a pilot project for the economic development of other parts of Africa where similar problems existed.

30. An indirect consequence of the geographical extension of the assistance activities of his office was the interest which had been shown in the possibility of increas-

ing the membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme in such a way as to take account of that new situation. He would recall Council resolution 862 (XXXII), under which the Council was to reconsider the matter at its thirty-sixth session. The Council would probably wish to consider what recommendation it might make to the General Assembly.

31. It might justly be concluded that the High Commissioner's Office had proved its ability, where necessary, to adapt its action to new situations without departing from the rules prescribed by its statute and by the Executive Committee which governed its work of assistance, and its steadfast care to help the responsible governments to devise the most expedient, economical and realistic solutions. That humanitarian and strictly non-political work of his office was made possible only by the active collaboration of governments. With particular reference to the financial problem raised by the 1963 programme, he placed great hopes on the results already obtained by the campaign for the liquidation of the residual problem of the "old" European refugees. If the example provided by the replies received from various countries were followed, there was every reason to anticipate a fresh victory of the spirit of international solidarity upon which the entire humanitarian action of the High Commissioner's Office was founded.

32. Mr. EL-FARRA (Jordan), introducing the draft resolution submitted by his delegation (E/L.1026), said that the report under consideration was not connected, directly or indirectly, with the problem of the Palestine refugees, to which repatriation was the answer.

33. The report reflected good progress and an impressive record of work, and he paid a tribute to the United Nations High Commissioner and to his associates and staff for their devotion to the humanitarian work in which they were engaged. His delegation greatly appreciated the facilities provided and the many services rendered during the past year to refugees in African areas, including Algeria.

34. There was no need for him to dwell on the many achievements of the High Commissioner's Office on which a further opportunity to speak would be offered at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly. However, that office, subsequent to the extension of its mandate for a further period of five years from 1 January 1964 under General Assembly resolution 1783 (XVII), was engaged in planning its future activities. As the Council was well aware, the increased membership of the United Nations made it necessary to enlarge the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. The Jordanian draft resolution provided for an increase from twenty-five to thirty members — a step that was the more important in view of the situation created by the extension of the Office's work to many different parts of the world. Since the term of office of the existing members expired in 1963, Jordan was of the opinion that the election to the existing twenty-five seats as well as to the additional five should take place at the Council's resumed thirty-sixth session. The draft resolution reflected that idea, and he hoped it would be

adopted as it stood. If, however, the Council saw fit to decide otherwise, he would be ready to accept any amendment deemed necessary.

35. Mr. BINGHAM (United States of America), introducing the United States amendment (E/L.1027) to the Jordanian draft resolution, said he first wished to express his appreciation to the High Commissioner and his highly competent staff for their dedication and tireless efforts in the humanitarian cause with which they were concerned. The unanimous vote of the General Assembly to keep the Office in being for a further period of five years was a tribute to the effectiveness of its present work and a vote of confidence in its future efforts. The United States Government was glad to have had the opportunity of assisting that important work through financial and other contributions to the rehabilitation and care of refugees, and through direct grants to governments receiving them.

36. The international protection of refugees was one of the Office's first priorities. That part of the work was designed to ensure basic human rights for refugees and to promote their ready assimilation into the life of their new communities. The many social problems involved, including employment, social security, housing, public education and assistance, were matters of primary concern, since it was the civil, political and economic rights of man the world over which were affected. It was just as important to the receiving countries as to the refugees themselves that there should be equal access to those rights. Thus, by reason of the principles of international law and social justice, the treatment of refugees was a matter of concern to the international community. The primary purpose of the establishment and maintenance of the High Commissioner's Office was to provide international protection; and that function was the more important since refugees could not be regarded as completely assimilated until their economic and social position was assured and consolidated by legal action. He welcomed the excellent work done in the provision of legal aid and advice to individual refugees, especially because in many cases the service was rendered without cost or obligation to the individual refugee.

37. The High Commissioner's report was on the whole comprehensive, well-balanced and informative; the summary section, however, could be usefully expanded. It was gratifying to note that most parts of the programme had been reasonably effective. The successful settlement of the Algerian refugee problem in particular was a matter for great satisfaction. Another most significant development during 1962 had been the institution of definite plans for a three-year programme to settle the problem of the European refugees once and for all by the end of 1965.

38. The successful repatriation to Algeria, over a three-month period, of the 181,000 refugees who had been given asylum in Morocco and Tunisia had been an historic event and had put an end to a problem which for years had engaged the humanitarian attention of the world. The operation was all the more significant since 85 per cent of the refugees had been mothers and children

and elderly persons. The successful completion of the task had been largely due to the fine co-operation between the High Commissioner's Office and the League of Red Cross Societies; the latter body had expended some \$22 million for feeding, sheltering and clothing the refugees before repatriation. That sum had not included the expenses of the host government or donations made through other channels, and his government had been glad of the opportunity to subscribe, through all three channels, more than \$17 million in cash, food and other supplies, as well as further substantial contributions towards the refugees' reintegration.

39. The settlement of the remaining 39,000 or so "old" European refugees was a Herculean task and the comments on the major programme for that purpose in paragraph 6 of the report were worthy of every attention. The idea of finally solving the problem within a stated period might be regarded as unrealistic, but firm grounds for optimism were provided by the progress made in resettling 12,000 refugees in 1962, through the co-operation and solidarity displayed by certain governments.

40. Another aspect of the work that was of considerable importance was assistance to new groups of refugees. Under the authority of ten General Assembly resolutions, the High Commissioner had continued in 1962 to use his good offices for assisting certain groups of refugees outside his mandate. It was gratifying that he had applied himself to practical aspects, leaving the question of the legal definition of the refugees' status aside. The work on behalf of refugees from Rwanda, Angola and Ghana had been particularly important. The High Commissioner had stimulated the flow of contributions from various sources, as well as of technical and material aid from the ILO, TAB, UNICEF and the League of Red Cross Societies.

41. The High Commissioner and the Office had been faced with many new problems in 1962: refugees in the Congo and Togo, the needs of refugees from Rwanda, the special situation relating to Burundi and developments in Tanganyika, Cambodia, the Caribbean area, Latin America and Uganda, all of which had added to the burdens on an already overtaxed staff. Their dedicated efforts had greatly contributed towards the solution of many of those problems, and his delegation much appreciated all that had been done. The United States Government felt privileged to have been able to assist in that all-important work.

42. So far as concerned the Jordanian draft resolution, his delegation was in sympathy with the idea that the Executive Committee should be expanded to give representation to countries having an interest in the work. It would have preferred that only two to three seats be added, but was prepared to yield to the general desire for an increase of five. On the other hand, it was of opinion that the term of office of the existing members should be prolonged for the duration of the extended mandate, and that only the five additional members should be elected at the resumed thirty-sixth session. That would accord with past practice, since in 1957 and again in 1958 the members of the Executive Committee had simply been re-elected. Furthermore, it was desirable

to provide for continuity, and for the continued participation of countries with a primary interest in refugee problems. He was therefore submitting the United States amendment to the Jordanian draft resolution; and he expressed appreciation of the Jordanian representative's willingness to accept such amendments as the Council might deem necessary.

43. Mr. de CHALVRON (France) congratulated the High Commissioner on the manner in which he had settled the difficult problems with which he had been faced. The French delegation was glad to note that the problems of the "old" refugees were about to be solved; that the question of handicapped refugees had been tackled; and that, owing to the general evolution of the situation, the good offices function tended to occupy an increasingly prominent place in the High Commissioner's work. That new trend should be maintained within the limits imposed, on the one hand, by the High Commissioner's mandate and his legal functions and, on the other hand, by the very nature of the good offices function, which could operate only in urgent cases to save human life, pending the intervention of bodies such as UNICEF, TAB and the Special Fund, which were competent to take long-term action. It should be well understood that the duty of the High Commissioner's Office was to provide, not technical assistance, but emergency relief and legal protection, and the High Commissioner should be congratulated on having settled the problem of the Algerian refugees without exceeding his jurisdiction. Lastly, the directives of the Executive Committee constituted another of the limits assigned to the good offices function of UNHCR.

44. With regard to draft resolution E/L.102b, while being of the opinion that an enlargement of the membership of the Executive Committee would be useful, he considered that no countries should be added to the Committee which had not displayed real interest in the refugee problem and given proof of their goodwill and concern for justice. Refugee work must retain its strictly humanitarian and non-political character. The tasks still confronting the High Commissioner's Office remained complex, and it was difficult to predict their scope, but in view of the results which had been achieved in the past, a successful outcome could be confidently expected.

45. Mr. WODAK (Austria) said that Austria had special reason for associating itself with the tributes paid to the High Commissioner and his staff, because it was a member of the Executive Committee, and he personally had seen for himself what valuable work was being done. He was therefore glad that the mandate of the Committee had been extended by the General Assembly. The High Commissioner was still faced with an enormous task, and the same problems would probably be before the United Nations for years. Austria had a special relationship with the High Commissioner's Office as a country of first asylum, where many hundreds of thousands of refugees had arrived after the Second World War, and as a result of other events. He wished to stress one aspect of the High Commissioner's work, which seemed to be among the most important: the problem of legal protection. The Jordanian draft resolution might perhaps be amended so

as to place emphasis on that question. If there were any support for that suggestion, his delegation would be glad to draft a paragraph to that effect.

46. His delegation could support the United States amendment because the Executive Committee was entirely non-political and technical; a complete change of its membership would disturb the continuity of its work, which would suffer as a result. He welcomed the enlargement of the Committee's membership, particularly if that would entail the addition of members from new African countries, and his delegation had been particularly pleased to note that many such countries were among the new signatories of the 1951 Convention. He also hoped that the additional members would be representatives of countries which had signed the Convention, since eligibility for membership of the Executive Committee might encourage further accessions.

47. Mr. FURLONGER (Australia) said that the High Commissioner's extremely illuminating statement and report showed that the past year had been one of real progress and that the liquidation of the problem of the "old" European refugees was at last in sight. Australia had helped with the special programme for refugees suffering from physical and psychological handicaps by supplying a doctor with considerable psychiatric experience, and had agreed to accept as immigrants a substantial number of handicapped refugees who could begin a new life in a different environment. Substantial progress had also been made with regard to newer refugee problems, particularly in Africa, and successful work had been accomplished for refugees from Algeria and Rwanda and for those in Togo and the Congo (Leopoldville); it was particularly encouraging to see how neighbouring countries had responded to the challenge of the African refugee problem, despite the very limited resources at their disposal.

48. He agreed with the Austrian representative that legal protection was an aspect of the problem that was often overlooked, and that it should be given some special recognition in the resolution to be adopted by the Council. He would also welcome some special reference to the work of the voluntary agencies; one of the High Commissioner's most important tasks was to stimulate and assist those organizations in their work.

49. Although the High Commissioner's work during the preceding year could be regarded as satisfactory, it should be borne in mind that the modern age was one of rapid political change, and that the refugee problem was not static: as soon as one problem was solved, another was apt to arise in some unexpected quarter. The Australian delegation to the seventeenth session of the General Assembly had therefore supported the prolongation of the High Commissioner's mandate. His country had been most gratified at the High Commissioner's presence in Australia to present Sir Tasman Heyes with the 1962 Nansen Medal; the High Commissioner's visit had done much to encourage the Australian people's continued active interest in the refugee problem.

50. The geographical scope of that problem had clearly expanded considerably in the past five years, and Africa

was becoming increasingly interested. It was therefore only reasonable to increase the membership of the Executive Committee by five members, from non-European States which displayed continuing concern with the welfare of refugees. On the other hand, his delegation doubted the necessity of throwing into the melting pot, so to speak, a committee which had done valuable work for years and had been elected in accordance with the criteria set out in General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII). The existing members of the Committee were no less qualified to carry out the work than they had been in 1957; on the contrary, they had added to their experience through five years of service on the Committee. Moreover, while many of the members of the Executive Committee had direct personal experience of various aspects of the refugee problem, the Committee also benefited by the contributions of countries, such as Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries, which were not directly involved, but had long experience of aid to and humanitarian interest in refugees. The High Commissioner's programme depended on voluntary contributions and he had the unenviable and difficult task of raising funds each year from governmental and non-governmental sources; that task would be facilitated if the Executive Committee consisted of representatives well acquainted with the practical aspects of the work. The Australian delegation therefore believed that it would be best to retain the existing membership of the Committee and to add five more members; the Jordanian delegation was to be commended for taking the initiative in proposing the enlargement of the Committee; but its draft would be considerably improved by the incorporation of the United States amendment.

51. Mr. DUCCI (Italy) thanked the High Commissioner for his statement, which supplemented the information supplied in his annual report. The work of his office, which had been particularly active in 1962, had also covered the refugees who had found a country of first asylum in Italy. His government had appreciated the High Commissioner's efforts to solve the problems of the seriously handicapped refugees and, more particularly, the inquiry on that subject undertaken in Italy by Dr. Jensen. The Office's work for new refugee groups deserved praise; that applied particularly to the repatriation of the Algerian refugees and the programme undertaken for refugees in Togo. He also welcomed the improvement in the status of refugees resulting from the accession of new States to the international juridical instruments concerning refugees, and from the legislative and administrative measures adopted by various countries.

52. It appeared from the High Commissioner's report and from his statement that the problem of the "old" refugees was to be finally settled by the end of 1964. New refugees, however, continued to reach Europe in ever-increasing numbers. In Italy, there had been 3,531 refugees in reception centres on 31 May 1963 as compared with 2,866 on the same date in 1962. Despite the growing influx of refugees, Italy was continuing its effort to assist refugees at both the international and the national levels. An exchange of notes had taken place on 22 April 1963 between the Italian and Austrian Govern-

ments providing for the acceptance by both countries of refugees who had entered illegally from the territory of the other country. A similar agreement had been concluded between Italy and Belgium in May 1963, and further such agreements were to be concluded with Germany and Switzerland. As was mentioned in the report (annex II, para. 36), the Italian Government had also addressed a new statement to the High Commissioner on the right of the refugees to work, the purpose being to promote the integration of the refugees in the Italian economy. His government had also adopted social security measures intended to ensure that the multilateral and bilateral social security agreements already concluded with other countries were made applicable to refugees.

53. As to the Jordanian draft resolution and the amendment submitted by the United States, his government had first asked itself whether it was advisable to enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee. It had reached the conclusion that the need to retain the Committee's existing members should be offset by the addition of new members, and his delegation would therefore vote for both the draft resolution and the United States amendment. He was also prepared to support the Austrian representative's suggestion if it should be submitted as a formal proposal.

54. Sir Samuel HOARE (United Kingdom) congratulated the High Commissioner on his report and his statement. He quite agreed with the Austrian and United States representatives concerning the importance of the legal protection of refugees, which was one of the High Commissioner's fundamental functions. He also welcomed the news that eight more States had ratified the 1951 Convention; the ratification of that instrument was important not only from the point of view of the assumption by States of certain obligations — which were not very onerous — but also because an increase in the number of ratifications would constitute proof of general acceptance of the principles defining the status of refugees and the minimum requirements for their treatment. It was to be hoped that the number of ratifications would ultimately increase to such an extent that those principles might be regarded as representing the views of the international community as a whole.

55. The High Commissioner's solutions of the problem of the "old" European refugees were to be commended. It was to be hoped that the vigour shown by the High Commissioner might lead to an even more rapid solution than that which he prognosticated. The High Commissioner was also to be congratulated on the work he had done on camp clearance, which, in his delegation's opinion, was an activity which should be given the highest priority.

56. The High Commissioner's activities in connexion with new categories of refugees were also praiseworthy, and his office had handled most capably situations which called for caution and tact. The High Commissioner's function was one of stimulating the mobilization of assistance from various sources; his description of himself as a catalyst showed a perfectly correct view both of the strength and of the limitations of his office.

57. It was gratifying to note from the High Commissioner's statement that he seemed to be more optimistic concerning the financing of his activities than might appear from paragraph 133 of his report. Nevertheless, the possibility of further support was a matter of constant concern to the United Kingdom Government, which had responded to the High Commissioner's appeals by proposing to double its contribution on a 10 per cent matching basis. His government was also anxious to stimulate both regular and new contributions: only one-third of the States Members of the United Nations were regular contributors, and that number should be raised.

58. His delegation agreed that an increase in the membership of the Executive Committee was desirable and should be based primarily on an increase in the membership of new States which had shown an interest in the refugee problem. On the other hand, he could not agree with members who believe that the existing membership of the Committee should be confirmed without elections. The Executive Committee had been elected by the Council in 1957 by a democratic process on the basis of the criterion of showing an interest in the refugee question; but he could not see why it should be assumed that the existing members of the Committee were the only States among the 109 Members of the United Nations which had demonstrated genuine interest in refugee problems and would wish to be appointed. Moreover, it could not be automatically assumed that all the existing members wished to continue their membership of the Executive Committee. Care should be taken to avoid forming small closed societies in the United Nations; although the Committee had undoubtedly done good work, the membership could not remain unchanged indefinitely and that would be the effect of the proposal. Moreover, the most recent Council resolution 650 B (XXIV) on the subject had prolonged the Committee's mandate until not later than the end of 1963, and that decision implied that a new committee would be elected before that period expired. There would seem to be no difficulty in electing a committee of thirty members by the same procedure and on the same criterion used in 1957 to elect twenty-five. It was not desirable that other countries which wished to make a positive contribution to the High Commissioner's work should be left to seek election to the five additional seats which had been proposed primarily for African countries.

59. Mr. KOPCOK (Yugoslavia), praising the High Commissioner's report, which was as objective as it was useful, said that his delegation had particularly appreciated the High Commissioner's efforts to secure the repatriation of the Algerian refugees, and the assistance which had been provided for their integration in Algeria's economic life.

60. His delegation had supported the proposal to extend the High Commissioner's mandate for a further five-year period on the assumption that his office would in future concentrate on the problems of the "old" refugees and, increasingly, on areas where new refugees had made their appearance as a result of the struggle of various countries to achieve independence. Repatriation to their

country of origin obviously constituted the only sound and lasting solution to the problems of most of those refugees. It was to be hoped that during the new five-year term of his mandate, the High Commissioner would be able to settle the refugee problem finally and devote itself increasingly to legal assistance, which was its main function.

61. Despite the vast amounts which Yugoslavia had spent on assistance to refugees in its territory, his country had never ceased to support the High Commissioner's efforts. It had thus made a contribution of 30 million dinars to promote a final solution of the problem of the Algerian refugees and a contribution of \$5,000 for the High Commissioner's regular programme.

62. As to the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, he recalled that at the seventeenth session of the General Assembly his delegation had stressed the need not only to enlarge the Committee, but also to redistribute the seats within that body, since its interest had spread to other regions. His delegation therefore supported the Jordanian draft resolution, although it held the view that the time had come for a new and equitable geographical distribution of seats. He could not support the United States amendment, for it was at variance with the principle of rotation which was applicable to the election and re-election of the members of all United Nations bodies and which should be equally respected in the case of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme.

63. Mr. EL-FARRA (Jordan), referring to the Austrian representative's proposal, said that his delegation would be in favour of emphasizing the problem of legal protection if it felt that its draft resolution was the proper place for such a reference. But the draft resolution dealt with a procedural matter. Moreover, legal protection was referred to in detail in the 1951 Convention, in the High Commissioner's Mandate and in a number of resolutions, while the very establishment of the High Commissioner's Office emphasized the need for legal protection of refugees. And the High Commissioner had not complained of any lack of facilities for legal protection, whereas he had stressed the need for material assistance and stated that the initial obstacles to the solution of the refugee problem were practical rather than legal. Indeed, a reference to legal protection in his delegation's draft resolution might cast doubt on the need to continue such protection. He therefore appealed to the Austrian delegation not to submit an amendment to that effect.

64. Mr. WODAK (Austria) said that his delegation would not submit a formal amendment on the subject.

65. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the United States amendment (E/L.1027) to the Jordanian draft resolution (E/L.1026) and the Jordanian draft resolution.

The United States amendment was adopted by 11 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.

The Jordanian draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 14 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

66. The PRESIDENT proposed that, as in previous years, the Council adopt a resolution taking note of the High Commissioner's report.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 16

Question of procedures for the revision of the International Convention on Road Traffic and of the Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, done at Geneva, 19 September 1949 (E/3800; E/L.1023, E/L.1028)

67. Mr. BUZZI-QUATTRINI (Austria), introducing the draft resolution which his delegation had submitted jointly with that of France (E/L.1023), said that the text was self-explanatory, but that he wished to comment briefly on its historical development, since it dealt with a very technical matter.

68. The Council had acted on the question for the first time at its seventh session, when it had decided in its resolution 147 B (VII) to convene a conference on road and motor transport to replace four existing conventions; the 1949 Convention and Protocol had resulted from that conference. If the situation in 1949 were taken into account, it must be admitted that the authors of those instruments had realistically anticipated a high rate of growth in road traffic and had prepared very up-to-date agreements. Nevertheless, subsequent developments had gone far beyond the expectations of the participants in the 1949 Conference, and it had soon become clear that the agreements would have to be adjusted to the new situation.

69. In 1950, the countries of Europe had concluded the European Agreement supplementing the 1949 Convention and Protocol. Since then two working parties of ECE, one on road traffic safety and the other on the construction of vehicles, had prepared, with a view to the amendment of the two instruments, a great deal of material, which could be divided into three groups: first, amendments which were expected to be adopted unanimously and which were contained in the Austrian proposals of 1962; second, provisions which might be included in European supplementary agreements; and third, regulations to be recommended to interested States for adoption through a resolution. In addition, the European Conference of Ministers of Transport was trying to draw up a unified code on road traffic, and similar efforts had been undertaken by ECA.

70. As a first step, the ECE Sub-Committee on Road Transport had decided in 1962 that the Austrian Government, whose representative had been Chairman of the Sub-Committee, should propose certain amendments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with article 31 of the Convention and article 60 of the Protocol. Those amendments were identical with the proposals in the first group, whose unanimous acceptance was expected. The Secretary-General had informed the contracting parties to the agreements of the proposed amendments; but at the end of the required four-month period, the affirmative answers had failed to reach the required two-thirds majority.

71. The Austrian Government had therefore decided to seek new means of improving the agreements, not only because it had been asked to take the initiative by the competent organs of ECE, but also because Austria had a vital interest in a satisfactory solution of the problem. For instance, in 1962 some 32 million foreigners had crossed the Austrian frontiers, 80 per cent of them by road; the importance of effective international regulation of road traffic for a central European country would thus be readily understood.

72. Since the initiative for the 1949 Convention and Protocol had come from the Council, it was for that body to decide on the further steps to be taken to bring the agreements up to date. The purpose of the joint draft resolution was merely to provide the Council with the objective information which should serve as the basis for a decision.

73. With reference to the United Kingdom amendments (E/L.1028), the Austrian delegation had not overlooked the possibility of circulating the ECE amendments once again, and that the question had been examined thoroughly at the thirty-fifth session of the Council. Nevertheless, the Austrian Government had decided against a repetition of that procedure, because it was highly unlikely that a second circulation of the amendments would elicit the required number of positive replies; the member States of ECE which were parties to the agreement had collaborated in the preparation of the amendments and were thus adequately informed about them, while the parties which were not members of ECE had been informed of the amendments long before the official notification by the Secretary-General. Thus, the contracting parties had had a much longer time to study the proposals than the four months provided for in the agreements. It would be unwise to resubmit the amendments and thus to incur the risk of a second failure, which seemed to his delegation to be more likely than a successful outcome.

74. Mr. WHYTE (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had submitted its amendments to the draft resolution because of the unfortunate failure of the amendments prepared by the ECE Inland Transport Committee to overcome the obstacles embodied in article 31 of the 1949 Convention and article 60 of the Protocol. There had been suggestions that those provisions could be revised by means of a Council resolution, but the United Kingdom had doubts about that solution on purely legal grounds. A second possibility had been to convene a conference to amend the amendment provisions of the Convention and Protocol, but that complicated procedure would probably not have been justified by the results. The idea of recirculating the amendments had next occurred to his delegation, which believed that that solution had a good chance of success, particularly in view of the proviso that the positive responses already received would remain valid unless there was an indication to the contrary. It was perfectly reasonable to assume that replies had not been received simply owing to pressure of work in the government departments concerned, but the publicity given to the question in the Council and the exhortation in the amended draft resolution would provide further

encouragement to the authorities which were interested in bringing the amendments into force. The good work already done should not be wasted; and, further, the recirculation of the amendments would in no way mean that investigation of the possibility of preparing a new convention would be delayed.

75. Mr. TESORO (United States of America) said that his country, which was a party to the 1949 Convention, did not wish to see the valuable work already done on the matter abandoned. From the long-term point of view, the United States delegation would support the joint draft resolution asking the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the question of whether a new convention would be useful and desirable. On a short-term basis, it believed that the United Kingdom amendments provided a wise solution, in the form of a second attempt to obtain the necessary number of acceptances by the contracting parties of the amendments prepared by ECE. He could not share the Austrian representative's pessimism; even if the required majority were not obtained, nothing would be lost by recirculating the amendments.

76. Mr. DUCCI (Italy) said that his country, like Austria, was particularly interested in modernizing the Convention on Road Traffic, since it too was visited by millions of tourists. His delegation was convinced that the Convention had become obsolete and that a conference for its revision should be convened; on the other hand, the revision should be as careful as possible, and the Council should therefore proceed with due caution. He doubted whether the recirculation of the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom would have positive results; and, in any case, the existing amendments to the Convention would not suffice to bring that instrument and the Protocol into line with the new situation that had arisen as a result of the enormous development of road traffic in continental Europe. He would not, however, vote against the United Kingdom amendments provided they would not delay the adoption of a decision on the main issue.

77. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, although the 1949 Convention and Protocol had had a beneficial effect on road transport and tourism, subsequent developments in the construction of motor vehicles and the rapid growth of road traffic had led to the conclusion that those instruments must be modernized. The ECE Inland Transport Committee had done useful preliminary work, which could be completed successfully with the help of the other regional economic commissions. He wished to stress, however, that since the regulation of motor traffic did not affect European countries only, it would be desirable to revise the 1949 instruments on a wider and more up-to-date basis. His delegation would therefore vote for the joint draft resolution.

78. Mr. LAVCEVIC (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation had voted for Council resolution 941 (XXXV) as a purely procedural text and that it regarded the documents currently before the Council as procedural also. It could vote both for the joint draft resolution and for the United Kingdom amendments, since those texts were a logical continuation of the efforts already made and provided

the broadest possibilities of studying the problem in substance.

79. Mr. KRALIK (Czechoslovakia) thanked the sponsors of the joint draft resolution, whose aim was to improve the road signs and signals currently in use. Those signs and signals were no longer adequate, and his delegation therefore supported any action aimed either at amending the 1949 Convention or at preparing a new convention, which would be preferable. He would therefore vote for the joint draft resolution.

80. Miss MOFFAT (Australia) said that her delegation would support the joint draft resolution, but could not vote for the United Kingdom amendments. She shared the pessimistic view of the Austrian delegation and believed it unlikely that the amendments to the 1949 Convention and Protocol would be adopted within the prescribed time-limit.

81. Mr. WHYTE (United Kingdom) assured the Italian representative that the purpose of the United Kingdom amendments was in no way to delay consideration of the possibility of preparing a new convention.

82. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the United Kingdom amendments (E/L.1028) to the Austrian and French joint draft resolution (E/L.1023) and the joint draft resolution.

The United Kingdom amendments were adopted by 8 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

The joint draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 17

United Nations Technical Conference on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale (E/3715 and Add.1; E/L.1021 and 1029)

83. Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom), introducing the draft resolution submitted by his delegation (E/L.1021), said his delegation believed that good maps were vital for the progress of mankind, for economic development, surveys of water resources, development of communications and many other purposes. The United Nations Technical Conference on the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale, which had been held at Bonn in August 1962, had had the single task of considering new specifications for the map. The previous specifications dated from 1913 and were therefore out of date and quite inadequate. The new specifications had been drafted and the Secretariat was preparing them for publication, though one small matter of hypsometric tints remained outstanding.

84. The United Kingdom delegation was quite ready to accept the French amendment (E/L.1029).

85. The new draft resolution replaced that which the United Kingdom had introduced at the thirty-fifth session of the Council (E/L.984). It differed from the former draft merely in omitting two points: the point concerning

reproducible material, which might have caused embarrassment to a number of governments, including that of the United Kingdom; and the point calling for harmonization between the International Map of the World (IMW) and World Aeronautical Chart (WAC) series, which the United Kingdom's technical advisers considered to be technically impracticable. His delegation remained open to persuasion, however, and if harmonization did prove feasible it would have no objection to restoring that provision.

86. Mr. RENAUD (France) supported the United Kingdom draft resolution and thanked the Secretariat for its excellent report (E/3715 and Add.1), which clearly summed up the major ideas to be kept in mind in preparing the map concerned.

87. A question of substance arose in connexion with the operative paragraph of section B, whose last words were open to misunderstanding. For that reason he was submitting an amendment (E/L.1029) suggesting that the words "as the Central Bureau of the IMW" should be replaced by the following sentence: "These sheets may not be used for cartographic purposes without the permission of the country or countries responsible for their publication."

88. Mr. PONTI (Italy) thanked the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for the hospitality it had accorded to the Conference and the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report. He agreed with the view expressed in the report that harmonization between IMW and WAC series was desirable; and he shared the hope that the co-operation started at the Bonn Conference would be continued and intensified.

89. He was prepared to support the United Kingdom draft resolution and was glad that the United Kingdom representative had accepted the French amendment. Italy would not fail to supply its sheets for inclusion in the archives in the Cartographic Section of the United Nations, without prejudice, however, to the international conventions and treaties concerning copyrights to which Italy was a party. Italy had for many years given assistance to developing countries in cartographic matters and would be in a position to make available the services of experts and technicians if necessary.

90. Mr. PARSONS (Australia) said that Australia was pleased to have been able to take an active part in the Bonn Conference, which was of considerable importance and had dealt with practical issues on which many countries had found it possible to agree. Agreements of that kind did not solve major international problems, but they did contribute in a positive and practical way to making the world a better organized place, and perhaps that alone was sufficient justification for the Conference.

91. The Conference had been agreed that harmonization between IMW and WAC series was desirable, and he proposed that the draft resolution should take note of the Conference's invitation to ICAO by including section B of the United Kingdom's original draft submitted to the thirty-fifth session.

92. He would draw attention to the words "appropriate and practicable" in the operative paragraph of that section. If, as the United Kingdom's experts had suggested, the difficulties of harmonizing the series proved insurmountable, then of course greater uniformity was no longer appropriate or practicable.

93. As to the provision of technical assistance in the publication of IMW sheets in developing countries, referred to in part C of the draft resolution, Australia was most willing to help in any way it could — for example, by providing training facilities in Australia for nominees of interested governments.

94. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that previous speakers had spoken of the draft resolution as if the question had already been examined and decided upon; for him, however, two basic questions remained unclear. He asked the United Kingdom representative what was the purpose of drawing up an international map of the world. So far, no satisfactory explanation had been given, either during that session or previously. At the Council's thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions, certain resolutions had been examined, but the real issue — the purpose which the map would serve — had not been dealt with.

95. He would also ask the Secretariat what role it thought the United Nations should play in preparing the map. The United Nations was directly interested and concerned with the question, and he wished to know to what extent the map would be official, if it were prepared. Whatever the United Nations did bore an official character, and he wondered what the status of a map prepared in that way would be.

96. Mr. CHAKRAVARTY (India) said that the idea of preparing an international map of the world on the millionth scale was laudable, since its purpose was to provide the basic material for pre-investment surveys and economic development planning, as well as a basis for the preparation of more detailed thematic maps. India, however, had had difficulty in conforming to the detailed specifications for the map of the world prescribed by the international conferences, held in 1909, 1913 and 1928, since, even before those conferences, it had started a series of maps of its own for India and adjacent countries. In the I & AC series, each sheet covered 4° of latitude and 4° of longitude, whereas the international specification was for 4° and 6° respectively. The I & AC maps gave heights in feet and not in metres. It was difficult for India to switch over to the international specifications, as the I & AC maps formed the key to a whole series of larger-scale topographical maps. Despite those difficulties, India had tried to publish some sheets conforming to the old international specifications; but the Bonn Conference had devised new specifications. He was therefore not in a position to accept and endorse the revised specifications, and India would be unable to supply any copies of such maps to the United Nations archives in the foreseeable future.

97. The Indian delegation was willing to accept the recommendation that there should be close co-operation between the IMW and WAC series, if that was the general desire;

but the two series served different purposes, and he did not think that they could be combined, or that greater uniformity could be achieved between them without compromising the respective purposes for which they had been designed. The 1955 Mussoorie Conference had passed a resolution to the effect that the series should be maintained separately.

98. Though the Indian delegation welcomed any international effort to provide technical assistance to the developing countries, such aid, to be effective, should be of the specific type requested by the developing countries concerned.

99. While in general agreement with the purposes of the United Kingdom draft resolution, his delegation could not support the draft in its entirety because of the unsuitability, from India's point of view, of the new specifications; he would therefore abstain from voting.

100. Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom), replying to the USSR and Indian representatives, said that if a single uniform map of the world could be produced, it would undoubtedly assist anyone seeking information about other countries for such purposes as economic development, technical assistance, and communications. Such a map would obviously be conducive to progress and better understanding. It was fully understood that not all countries would be able to produce their portions of such a map at once; some countries might not be able to do so for a long time, and some perhaps never, but that was not a good reason for not making the attempt. He wished to emphasize that the draft resolution was purely permissive, and did not seek to compel anyone to do what they did not want to do.

101. Mr. EL-FARRA (Jordan) said he appreciated the efforts of the Secretary-General and the work done at the Bonn Conference, but his delegation could not support the United Kingdom draft resolution. He endorsed the views of the Indian representative: the world had not reached the stage where efforts of that kind could be successful. Decisions should be based on what was practicable and not motivated by idealistic aspirations which could not be put into practice in the near future.

102. He asked for separate votes on part A, and on parts B and C. His delegation would vote against part A and would abstain from voting on parts B and C.

103. Mr. de BREUVERY (Secretariat) noted that the USSR representative had asked what part the United Nations proposed to play in preparing the International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale, and had wondered whether it would be entirely justified in playing such a part. The fact was that the United Nations had to furnish technical assistance to many States with a view to enabling them, first, to prepare thematic maps concerning population, soil, resources and the like and, second, to establish national cartographic centres. To be of any practical value, such maps must obviously be prepared on the basis of the same specifications. Once those specifications had been established, the United Nations would be able to assist the countries in question. It might be pointed out, incidentally, that such work would be merely

supplementary to the tasks already entrusted to the Organization in the field of cartography under Council resolution 815 (XXXI).

104. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed his thanks to the representative of the Secretariat and the United Kingdom representative for their explanations.

105. He noted with satisfaction that the developing countries were provided with technical assistance in the field of cartography by the United Nations, and he hoped that such assistance would continue on the basis of requests of the developing countries themselves. But the representative of the Secretariat had said that the Secretariat was proposing to draw up specifications for the entire world. That caused his delegation serious doubts: he wondered whether the Secretariat would be able, in the existing circumstances, to discharge that task. Specifications were not merely technical, but political — sovereignty was involved. It was absurd to suppose that a map — a picture — of the world could be drawn up when even neighbouring countries had quite divergent ideas as to the proper specifications; and other ideas, besides specifications, were also involved. He hoped to have the opportunity of returning to the subject later.

106. The United Kingdom representative, whose explanation was not entirely satisfactory, had referred to the Bonn Conference; but documentation on the Bonn Conference was still lacking. Though ample time had been available, the official records of the Conference had not been ready for the thirty-fifth session and were still not ready. Before a decision was taken on so important a matter, which concerned a number of ministries in his country, as in others, it was necessary that the summary records should have been studied by experts. As that had not been possible, his delegation could not make any recommendation.

107. The United Kingdom representative's explanation had contained no reference to the essential question — the purpose of the proposed map. If the purpose was to aid economic development, he wondered why it was necessary to have an international political map. The publication of a world map by the United Nations would hardly settle the world's burning political problems, which were preventing the United Nations from fulfilling its duties. Those problems should be settled first, and it might subsequently then be possible to embark on the preparation of the map. He hoped that the United Kingdom representative would supply further explanations.

108. Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) said that the United Nations was not being called upon to manufacture a map of any kind. The suggestion was that, in the interests of harmony, individual countries should produce a standard map according to uniform specifications; and countries which produced the map were invited to send copies to the Secretary-General for safe-keeping. The United Nations was acting merely as a library. The maps would be produced by individual countries exactly as they were produced currently. If other countries did

not like the way frontiers were drawn on those maps they could protest, just as they could at that stage. He did not understand how the USSR representative could find anything undesirable in having a single unified map in the archives of the United Nations. The fact that it was made under United Nations auspices would not give it any special authority; it would be simply a collection of national maps.

109. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the United Kingdom representative's statement that individual countries were to prepare maps had merely increased his doubts. No more than thirty-five countries had been represented at the Bonn Conference; if only those countries were to prepare maps, and the other seventy-five countries did not, the result would be a useless, piecemeal conglomeration of scattered sheets on which two-thirds of the countries of the world would not be represented. But, so far as he had been able to gather, an even more curious solution had been recommended at the Bonn Conference: if a country could not or did not wish to submit a map, the suggestion was that it might entrust the task to another country. Thus, a large North American country had decided to draw up maps for the whole of Latin America. The representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany might wish to prepare maps of the German Democratic Republic, or of Poland, or even of the USSR. Hitler had wished to do so. It was impossible to make maps without aerial reconnaissance. The recommendation would therefore lead to an impossible situation. If a developing country wished to have a map of its territory it could address itself to the United Nations, which would supply the required specialists.

110. The proposals of the Bonn Conference threatened the sovereignty of nations and were contrary to the spirit of international co-operation; to sponsor them would be detrimental to the authority of the United Nations.

111. Outstanding frontier disputes and divergencies of nomenclature — in Kashmir, Morocco and other parts of the world — provided a further striking illustration of the prematureness of the proposed undertaking. Those problems would doubtless be solved, but their solution would have to be found gradually and not by drawing up a map which seventy-five States would not recognize. That was an absurd undertaking which would pointlessly tie up substantial resources when there were many more urgent things to be done. It would introduce a bone of contention into the United Nations and create far more difficulties than its advantages could possibly justify, as the map did not even seem to be necessary.

112. The only way out of the situation would be for the United Nations to give cartographical assistance to the developing countries in each specific case, as the Secretariat representative had suggested.

113. Mr. EL-FARRA (Jordan) said he would have been prepared to support the draft resolution before the Council if the action proposed would indeed be in the interests of harmony. In fact, however, the making of one standard

map for the world as a whole could at the moment lead only to dissension, and would involve the United Nations in demarcation disputes with which it would be unable to deal. He hoped the stage would eventually be reached when such action was possible.

114. Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) said he found it fantastic that it should be thought that the submission of a map to the United Nations archives should set the seal of United Nations authority on a disputed boundary.

115. As to the USSR representative's fears of espionage, a map on the millionth scale would be of very little military value.

116. He accepted the Australian representative's proposal that part B of document E/L.984 should be incorporated in the draft resolution.

117. Miss BELL (United States of America) said there seemed to have been a complete misunderstanding of the problem. It might be a case of misinterpretation, but she defied anyone to find in the report or in the draft resolution any statement to the effect that the United Nations was to undertake the making of a map. The background of the Bonn Conference was that United Nations had taken over a small organization, the Bureau for an International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale, and it was primarily countries which had belonged to that organization which had been invited to the Conference. The United Nations would not make a map, but merely receive information. The problems raised by the representatives of Jordan and the USSR would arise when any nation made any map. The specifications that were being recommended did not prescribe how boundaries should be drawn, but were merely specifications for symbols to represent mountains, rivers and other geographical features. The debate seemed to have had nothing whatever to do with the actual text of the draft resolution, which did not ask the United Nations to do anything at all.

118. Mr. KRALIK (Czechoslovakia) expressed the opinion that many obstacles would be met with in preparing an International Map of the World on the Millionth Scale, since the task presupposed the settlement of a certain number of political disputes. The proposals which had so far been made for settling those disputes, however, had not met with the agreement of the parties concerned. An effort to find satisfactory solutions would have to be made at a high level, and the Council was not in a position to play any part in the matter. For those reasons, his delegation would vote against the United Kingdom draft resolution.

119. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that numerous maps on the millionth scale existed and were used by navigators and airmen and others who found them perfectly satisfactory. The proposal would involve the waste of resources on something that already existed. But the proposal was not merely useless, it was also dangerous. The United States representative had said that the United Nations would not make a map, but that individual countries would submit

maps to the United Nations archives. Those maps, however, would show the demarcation of boundaries. In disputed cases, the maps submitted by different States might show differing boundaries, and the question would arise which of the various maps in the United Nations archives was authoritative.

120. Some seventy-five countries, or about two-thirds of the Members of the United Nations, had had no desire to take part in the preparation of the map. It was beyond the competence of the eighteen members of the Council to seek to impose their will on those seventy-five other countries. The question could only be deferred to later sessions, when the situation had become clearer, when the world situation was less embroiled and the authority of the United Nations was stronger.

121. If the sponsor of the draft resolution did not withdraw it, the USSR delegation would be compelled to vote against it.

122. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the United Kingdom draft resolution (E/L.1021) as amended by the French amendment (E/L.1029), and with the insertion proposed orally by the Australian representative. As the Jordanian representative had requested, part A of the draft resolution would be voted on separately.

Part A of the draft resolution was approved by 8 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.

The draft resolution as a whole, as amended, was approved by 8 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 7.50 p.m.