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- (b) Study prepared by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1827 (XVII) on a United Nations Training and Research Institute;
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President: Mr. A. PATIÑO (Colombia)

Present:

Representatives of the following States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia.

Observers for the following Member States: Algeria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden.

Observers for the following non-member States: 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, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological 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

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specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency as a whole (E/3695, E/3742, E/3746, E/3751, E/3752 and Add.1, E/3754, E/3758, E/3762 and Add.1 and 2, E/3765, E/3767 and Add.1, E/3768, E/3778, E/3787, E/3788, E/3793)

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);
- (c) Proposals for a priority programme of co-ordinated action in the field of water resources (E/3760)

GENERAL DEBATE (*concluded*)

*In the absence of the President, Sir Ronald Walker (Australia), first Vice-President, took the Chair.*

1. Mr. MATSUI (Japan) said that in General Assembly resolution 1710 (XVI) Member States had pledged to intensify their concerted efforts in the economic and social field in order to attain an annual rate of growth of national income of 5 per cent in the developing countries at the end of the Development Decade. During the first two years of the Decade, considerable progress had been made in the economic, social and human rights activities of the United Nations system. The Conference on the Application of Science and Technology had been held in February 1963. The important United Nations Conference on Trade and Development would be held in the early part of 1964 with the objective of promoting the international trade of the developing countries as an effective instrument for their economic development. The preparatory Committee for that Conference had already met twice in 1963 and had accomplished tangible results. The World Food Programme, which was a joint undertaking of the United Nations and FAO, had started its operations on 1 January 1963, and was rapidly expanding its work. Further progress had been made by the expansion of the activities of the Committee for Industrial Development. The Committee for Housing, Building and Planning had been established and it was expected to achieve considerable progress in due course. That trend had not been limited to the United Nations itself, for the specialized agencies and IAEA had also undertaken, with renewed vigour, a number of projects and programmes within their respective purviews.

2. With the commencement of the Development Decade the activities of the agencies of the United Nations system had widened in scope and increased in number. It was therefore important to keep constantly in mind the



amount of resources available for those activities. Although contributions to the technical assistance programmes were increasing every year, it was no secret that the funds available were far from sufficient. For that reason, it was essential for all the agencies concerned to avoid duplication and overlapping. They should also take collective action towards attaining the objectives of the economic and technical assistance programmes of the United Nations family. The best way to achieve those purposes under the existing arrangements was to strengthen co-ordination between the activities of the agencies.

3. While excellent work had been done in the past in that connexion by ACC, he would recall the role that the Council was expected to play in matters relating to co-ordination. Under Article 63 of the Charter, the Council had to co-ordinate the activities of the specialized agencies through consultation with and recommendations to such agencies and through recommendations to the General Assembly and to the Members of the United Nations. Accordingly, it seemed desirable that the Council should assume a more important role in co-ordination by establishing an even closer working partnership with ACC. It should be clearly understood, however, that efforts to co-ordinate should not infringe the autonomy of the various agencies of the United Nations family.

4. In that connexion, it was timely and fitting that by resolution 920 (XXXIV), the Council should have established the Special Committee on Co-ordination, with particular emphasis on the Development Decade. The Special Committee had met for the first time early in 1963 and, in spite of the limited time at its disposal, had produced a valuable report (E/3778). Although there had been diverging views on certain points, a consensus had been reached in the Special Committee on the priority areas of the Development Decade, in terms of both field activities and development measures and technique. It was to be hoped that on that basis the Special Committee would be able to provide more specific guide-lines for future co-ordination among the agencies concerned.

5. Mr. WODAK (Austria) said that the effective co-ordination of the United Nations machinery had acquired special significance since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1710 (XVI). The aims of that resolution could only be achieved if the Organization's common resources were properly pooled and if its common efforts were thoroughly co-ordinated.

6. The twin dangers of overlapping and duplication existed in every country and efforts were normally made to avoid them through the budget. It was difficult to exercise a similar control over United Nations activities, however, since there was not just one but several budgets. The various agencies decided on their expenditure and projects at their annual general conferences. That was not necessarily a drawback, since the member countries of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies could achieve a certain measure of co-ordination among all the agencies by efficiently participating in their work.

7. Consideration should be given not to the establishment of a new committee, but to making those already in existence really effective.

8. Planning, decision and control should be centralized so far as possible but as much decentralization as compatible should be allowed in the matter of execution. With respect to regional co-operation, the remarks on functional classifications contained in paragraph 19 of the Special Committee's report were of particular interest. His delegation shared the view that an agency-by-agency approach presented certain dangers and would welcome an increasing number of regional projects carried out jointly by several or all agencies. The Lower Mekong Basin project seemed to be an outstanding example in that respect.

9. In paragraph 11 of its report, the Special Committee had unanimously established an order of priorities for the future work of the Council, according to which the primary problem in the years to come would be the development of international trade, followed by the development of industry, human resources, agriculture and natural resources. That order of priority was basically correct, although it might be argued that the development of human resources was not an isolated aspect but was essentially connected with all phases of development.

10. Proposals had been made for the adoption of a trade policy which would permit developing countries to compete on the markets of industrialized countries on equal terms. His government was prepared to make its contribution to such efforts, which could prove effective only if a large number of governments participated in them.

11. The fullest attention should be given to the strengthening of economic relations between the developing countries themselves. An increase in the trade between those countries would contribute greatly towards their development.

12. So far as the Development Decade was concerned, the United Nations should be guided primarily by the needs of the developing countries and consequently should adhere, so far as possible, to the ideas of those countries as to how their development problems should be tackled. An interesting experiment in that connexion had been undertaken in July 1962 at Salzburg, where about one hundred people from thirty-four countries, large and small, developed and less developed, members of governments and officials, trade-union leaders and scientists, had met to discuss the problems of the Development Decade. That conference had been organized by the Theodor Körner Foundation and its results had been set forth in the Vienna Declaration on Co-operation for Development.

13. It might be of great value to begin the over-all co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies at the pre-programming stage, as suggested in paragraph 21 of the Special Committee's report. That task might be carried out by the Special Fund, whose work his government was already supporting to the fullest possible extent. In order to guarantee that spending was properly co-ordinated it might be possible to arrange for pre-programming consultations within the United Nations and all specialized agencies in respect of expenditure under their regular programmes. That would be far from easy, since the programming cycles of the different agencies varied in length, but a solution might

be found which would help to eliminate at least some overlapping.

14. In conclusion, he was glad to note that in technical assistance the efforts made to achieve co-ordination had already produced tangible results, as evidenced by the twenty-eighth report of ACC (E/3765, paras. 17-29), the report of the *ad hoc* Committee of Ten (E/3750) and the report of the recent session of TAC (E/3783).

15. Mr. MIGONE (Argentina) said that his country was increasingly convinced of the necessity for the existence and expansion of the United Nations specialized agencies, and for the need for growing co-operation between them and national administrations.

16. What most disturbed his delegation was the fact that the multiplication and aggravation of economic and social problems might frustrate the efforts that had been made. It was open to doubt whether the massive organization that had been set up was working in the most effective way and whether available resources could be increased — other than by a radical reduction of armaments — to the extent necessary to meet increasingly urgent needs.

17. Some order of priority should be established for the factors of development. New methods of equipping the developing countries must be found. One major drawback was the steady deterioration in their international trade. If that situation was not remedied, no amount of technical assistance, investment, or planning would produce the results that United Nations action was designed to achieve. If an international crisis was to be avoided, a redistribution of the national income of the various countries was urgently necessary.

18. All planning presupposed a certain order of priority depending on the particular situation of each country. The experience of the past few years had shown that there was one sector to which absolute priority must be given, namely, trade. Since the developed countries apparently hesitated to take the action concerning trade recommended in numerous United Nations resolutions, the meetings of many of the subsidiary bodies were no more than parliamentary exercises, while considerable resources were devoted to certain activities at the expense of others which would be more fruitful. It was therefore to be hoped that the Conference on Trade and Development would prompt the industrialized countries to make the desired changes in their trade policy.

19. A study of the programmes of the United Nations and its specialized agencies revealed that a serious imbalance persisted between the resources allocated to the development of agriculture and those devoted to industrialization. The balance should be restored, not by reducing the credits for agricultural programmes but by increasing those for industrial development. That underlined the necessity of advancing towards the eventual creation of a specialized agency for industrial development. In the meantime, the relevant activities of the regional economic commissions should be stepped up. The important contribution of the Alliance for Progress to the industrial development of the Americas should be noted.

20. The Argentine delegation approved the order of priority proposed by the Special Committee on Co-ordination. According to the proposals, priority would be given, firstly, to the promotion of international trade as a primary instrument of development; secondly, to industrial development; and lastly to the development of human resources, of agricultural production and of natural resources. The report should, however, be regarded as being of a preliminary nature and should shortly be supplemented in order to meet the needs envisaged when the Committee had been established.

21. The various activities referred to in the report called for some comment. Industrialization was an essential means of reducing unemployment in the under-developed countries and of providing the needed impetus to their economies. It was closely linked with the mechanization of agriculture, which not only helped to increase food production, but also raised the income of the rural masses and thus enabled them to buy the products of industry. The developing countries contained another relatively untapped source of wealth, namely human resources, the development of which enabled a substantial increase to be realized in economic potential; hence the importance of training programmes and the improvement of labour-management relations. All those activities should be planned democratically.

22. Mr. ZAPOTOCKY (Czechoslovakia) said that the main objectives of the Development Decade were to eliminate the last vestiges of colonialism, bring about the economic independence of the developing countries, and enable them to achieve self-sustained development and an equitable position in international trade. To secure those objectives, the United Nations and its specialized agencies had adopted certain positive measures in recent years, but the Development Decade remained a conglomeration of partial programmes some of which had come into existence more or less independently. The Decade was still only an idea rather than a coherent programme of action. It was not merely a matter of co-ordination; greater attention should be paid to industrialization and also to land reform, both of which were vital to the development of the developing countries.

23. Obviously, disarmament would release immense resources which would accelerate the solution of the problems facing the developing countries. The study of the economic consequences of disarmament should find its proper place within the Development Decade. At the same time, greater stress should be laid on the mobilization of domestic resources within the developing countries and the establishment of satisfactory conditions for the effective utilization of foreign capital.

24. The activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies must be redirected towards fulfilling the objectives of the Development Decade even at the cost of curtailing other less important activities. That would also inspire governments to intensify their national efforts and to seek increased bilateral aid.

25. The Development Decade must not be a mere slogan but a sound programme of action. The Conference on the Application of Science and Technology had been but



a first step, but it was imperative to apply its lessons within the developing countries. Similarly, the Conference on Trade and Development could become one of the most significant achievements of the United Nations. But it must deal seriously with existing disequilibria in international trade and propose practical measures for removing them. It must also lay down fair principles of international economic co-operation, place proper stress on the development needs of individual countries, and provide the groundwork for the establishment of an international trade organization.

26. The report on the activities of the United Nations Water Resources Development Centre (E/3760) deserved particular attention because the planned utilization of water was of vital importance for every country. His delegation assumed that special emphasis would be laid on integrated river basin development, in which Czechoslovakia had valuable experience which it was eager to share with other countries.

27. At the 1274th meeting, the Secretary-General had drawn the Council's attention to the need for cancelling or postponing some of the sessions of certain bodies in view of the heavy calendar during the coming year or so. That was logical but it would be equally logical not to cancel or postpone meetings which were of vital importance. The United Nations must therefore give serious thought to the establishment of priorities.

28. Mr. ARANGO (Colombia) said that his delegation had voted for General Assembly resolution 1710 (XVI) and Council resolution 916 (XXXIV) relating to the Development Decade, the purpose of which was stated clearly in the former. In a way, it could be said that all the items on the agenda of the current session led back to the central problem of the fight against under-development. While the efforts so far made were commendable, it was still a fact that the development process had begun along lines which were far from realistic.

29. In the first place, the term under-development was ambiguous, as its meaning varied considerably from one country to another. Thus, it was right that resolution 1710 (XVI) should state that each country must set its own target in the matter of development. If it was true that development entailed certain prerequisite economic and social conditions, it could be said that Latin America had made great progress in creating the political, social and legal institutions which were essential to progress. In order to prepare for development, Colombia had established many essential institutions which guaranteed freedom of association to workers, the elimination of forced labour and the equality of men and women.

30. Planning was one of the most effective weapons in the fight against under-development. While planning was no magic formula, it was necessary and a plan should therefore be prepared for adaptation to the needs of each individual country and to serve as a general guide for the various activities.

31. The essential factor was not capital but man's ability to change nature. That was why training and technical assistance were so important; it was gratifying to see that

technical assistance activities were a constant preoccupation of all the specialized agencies. In all the under-developed countries the shortage of administrators was acute and technical assistance would have no permanent impact so long as the assisted countries did not produce their own scientists and technicians.

32. As the representative of Argentina had said earlier in the meeting, the deterioration in the terms of trade created a critical situation in the under-developed countries. Paradoxically, the Latin American countries were currently exporting more than in the past but obtaining less foreign exchange in return, while demographic pressure was steadily increasing and they had to import essential capital equipment for their industrialization. That tragic position frustrated all their plans and promoted unemployment and political and social crisis. Many countries were thus caught in a vicious circle, since, conversely, political and social instability made it impossible for them to draw up long-term plans. That constituted a very serious problem for Colombia as for many other countries. The critical stage, at which the deterioration in the terms of trade would render the action of the international institutions useless, was not far distant. The Council had made a great many efforts since the Havana Conference in 1947 and 1948 to remedy that situation. Moreover, the purpose for which GATT had been established was the elimination of the barriers impeding international trade. However, despite all those efforts, the situation was more critical than ever. It was to be hoped that it would be possible at the forthcoming Conference on Trade and Development to formulate programmes whose implementation would change the terms of international trade. Many under-developed countries had in fact reached the point where they had no faith in the efficacy of the various programmes which were being carried out, so long as the terms of trade did not improve. As President Kennedy had said, the nations of the world had the resources to fight against famine and all they needed was the firm determination to use them. He welcomed the United States representative's statement at the 1275th meeting concerning an increase in the resources of IDA, which was already giving the under-developed countries considerable support.

33. Mr. P. BARTON (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that, while the proposals for action originally submitted in connexion with the Development Decade had been most inspiring, the latest report by the Secretary-General on the subject (E/3776) was somewhat disappointing. His organization had expected a more detailed programme for the achievement of the aims of the Development Decade, but the report was mainly concerned with administrative problems.

Since the Development Decade was such an enormous project it would be only natural if difficulties arose in the matter of co-ordination. Some problems of intellectual co-ordination had already become apparent. For example, the Conference on Science and Technology had been an attempt to bring together scientists, technologists and economists, but it had not been fully successful; many of the discussions had been amateurish, while some of the most imaginative proposals had not been discussed at all.

A similar problem seemed destined to arise at the projected Conference on Trade and Development. So far all emphasis in preparing that Conference had been on trade and none on development, although, when the decision to hold the Conference had been taken, the general understanding had been that trade problems would be discussed primarily in the light of the problems of development. Similarly, when plans for the Development Decade had originally been put forward it had been stressed that the social and economic aspects of development must be given equal weight. But that basic consideration seemed already to have been forgotten.

34. His organization was somewhat perturbed by the reference in paragraph 175 of the Secretary-General's report to the role of the ILO in the creation of a strong trade-union movement. That was in fact not the responsibility of the ILO, but of the trade unions and the workers themselves.

35. Finally, with reference to the observations made by the representative of Australia at the 1276th meeting, a new science was needed to grasp the international, interlinked development of economy. That new science must not neglect the social aspects of development.

36. Mr. PASTORI (Uruguay) said that in connexion with the items under discussion his delegation attached fundamental importance to the subject of international trade. The Council had decided in resolution 920 (XXXIV) to establish a Special Committee on Co-ordination to deal particularly with activities relating to the Development Decade. In the report which it had submitted, the Special Committee had expressed the view that trade was a primary instrument of development. From the twenty-eighth report of ACC, on the other hand, it appeared that the specialized agencies had overlooked the problem of international trade. The impression was therefore that the Council had not been supplied with all the material for which it had asked in resolution 916 (XXXIV).

37. In the course of its discussions the Special Committee had received a number of suggestions, including one for

the establishment of an international trade organization to co-ordinate the activities of the various United Nations bodies concerned. Although co-ordination was more essential than ever, his delegation was not automatically in favour of the establishment of a new organization. It considered that the results of the work of CICT, GATT and the regional economic commissions had been disappointing. The results of the meeting on problems of the meat trade had not come up to expectations. The provisions of recent resolutions on international commodity trade had not been in keeping with the urgency of the problems to be solved; and ECLA, too, had been unable to deal with those problems, owing to lack of resources. Consequently, his delegation recognized the need for a new organization capable of giving the necessary impetus to the work of the bodies concerned with international trade, but first it was necessary to decide how it should be constituted and what its terms of reference would be. It was quite wrong to postpone the necessary co-ordination on the grounds that the Conference on Trade and Development was to be held shortly.

38. On the subject of under-development, some important distinctions should be made. Some of the less developed countries were in the very early stage of development, while others had already reached a relatively high level, which was, however, constantly in jeopardy. The situation of the latter countries was even more serious than that of countries which were developing at a slow but steady pace. The Council should ensure that the competent authorities co-ordinated their work in such a way that some specific results could be achieved.

39. The PRESIDENT declared the general debate on items 4 and 6 closed. Item 4 and sub-items (a) and (b) of item 6 would be referred to the Co-ordination Committee, and sub-item (c) of item 6 to the Economic Committee, for consideration and report.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.