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ELEVENTH SESSION, **380th**
MEETING
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PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

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President : Mr. Hernán SANTA CRUZ (Chile).

Present : Representatives of the following countries :

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, France, India, Iran, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies :

International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization.

International Centre for Training in Public Administration (E/1708) (*concluded*)

1. Mr. DELHAYE (Belgium) referred to the use of the word "centre" in the note of the Secretary-General (E/1708) which, in French, tended to convey the idea of a restricted geographical area. Without putting forward a formal motion, he thought it would be preferable to delete in the title the words, "International centre for" and to say simply, "Training in public administration".

2. As to the substance of the question, he recalled that for many years Belgium had been granting to students and specialists from other countries scholarships and facilities for the study of techniques in administrative practice and had sent abroad on a reciprocal basis specialists in the various branches of administration. Belgium's interest in the question could also be seen from the fact that the International Institute of Administrative Sciences was located in Brussels. The Belgian Government would continue to co-operate fully in international efforts to develop administrative sciences and practice.

3. With regard to the organization of international seminars referred to in the Secretary-General's report, he recalled that, within the framework of the provisions of article 3 of the Brussels Treaty, leading officials of the five participating countries would meet periodically in seminars. Regional groups of that kind could be extended to cover the whole world, but it seemed preferable to proceed by stages, taking one geographical area at a time.

4. The PRESIDENT announced that two amendments had been submitted by the Indian delegation. The first

was identical with the first part of the Canadian amendment (E/L.54) submitted at the 379th meeting. The second proposed the substitution in the last paragraph of the Peruvian draft resolution (E/L.49) on the words "may be financed" for the words "should be financed".

5. Mr. VALENZUELA (Chile) stated that the Government was particularly interested in anything designed to improve the general level of public administration. The change-over from the old, passive type of administration to a modern administration of a more or less active type had in most countries been made empirically, without any preconceived plan, the usual result being the creation of an onerous and costly structure which the administrative reform programmes of the various States were specifically designed to improve. In the under-developed countries, the need for reform arose not only from the pressing requirements of economic development, but also from the opportunity for overhauling the existing systems created by the influx of large numbers of young people who, lacking other outlets for their activities, were turning towards the civil service. The study of a modern conception of national administration should make it possible to train an adequate staff and at the same time to free States from the financial burden of an unwieldy bureaucracy.

6. Nevertheless, he was afraid that an exaggerated conception of the Centre as an international administrative university might have the effect of strengthening existing bureaucracies without bringing about the desired reforms.

7. Moreover, he considered that an effort should be made to standardize civil administration so as to eliminate the existing diversity of techniques which was an obstacle to international co-operation.

8. In conclusion, he supported the Peruvian draft resolution, as amended by the representative of India.

9. Mr. OWEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs) said that he had been greatly encouraged by the fruitful debate which had taken place in the Council on the question of the International Centre for Training in Public Administration.

10. The Secretariat was embarking on a new venture which consisted in pooling information regarding public administration. Such an undertaking would be of benefit not only to under-developed countries, but even to the more highly developed ones, since an organized exchange of views and information could help them to improve their own administration.
11. Several delegations, particularly those of Brazil and the United States of America, had expressed concern (379th meeting) regarding the slow pace at which the programme was being implemented. As, however, the programme represented an entirely new venture, it was the duty of the Secretary-General to ensure that it was properly co-ordinated, both in respect of administration and in its substantive aspects, with the expanded programme of technical assistance.
12. Certain measures had, however, already been taken, and details could be found in the note by the Secretary-General. The number of fellowships granted so far had not been very large, because great care had to be taken in the selection of fellows. It was essential to ensure that fellowships were granted only to those who would later prove to be of real value to their respective countries. It had been necessary, therefore, to apply rather high standards.
13. It should also be emphasized that many of the requests for assistance under the programme of technical assistance were in fact requests for help in the administrative field. Yet, since they did come within the scope of the expanded programme of technical assistance, they were not listed by the Secretary-General in his note on the work accomplished in connexion with the International Centre for Training in Public Administration.
14. It was Mr. Owen's intention to recommend to the Secretary-General in the near future the appointment of a suitable person to take charge of all questions and requests for assistance concerning public administration. The person appointed would not be concerned only with under-developed countries, since, as had already been emphasized, the programme of the Centre would benefit both under-developed and developed countries alike.
15. In view of the above considerations, the Secretariat had decided to retain a nucleus staff concerned with public administration which would be expanded in accordance with the progress made under the expanded programme of technical assistance. The appointment of the person in charge would be made when the public administration programme had reached a suitable stage of expansion.
16. Many interesting suggestions had been made in connexion with the programme of seminars. The first seminar of the Centre was scheduled to take place at Lake Success on 15 September 1950 on the subject of public personnel management. A second seminar now being planned would be concerned with taxation and fiscal problems.
17. The Australian representative had asked the Secretariat to circulate full information on requests received for fellowships. That would be done as soon as the information was received from Headquarters.
18. He would not comment on the substance of either the Peruvian draft resolution or the amendments thereto which were before the Council, but would confine himself to observing that the expression "requests for assistance . . . should be financed" contained in the last paragraph of the draft resolution seemed somewhat inappropriate, as it was not the requests, but rather the activities resulting therefrom which had to be so financed.
19. Regarding the discussion which had taken place on the proper title to be given to the draft resolution, he recalled the fact that, during previous discussions on the subject, the Council had tended to consider the matter as a programme of activities. Members of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly had, on the other hand, made out a very strong case for an international centre on the grounds that, although matters of public administration were connected with the programme of technical assistance, the two should be kept quite separate. His personal opinion was that technical assistance in the field of public administration was merely one aspect of technical assistance. Furthermore, he had always felt that there should be some unit in the Secretariat to deal with problems of public administration. The nucleus of such a unit had been established and it could be regarded as a centre. Since General Assembly resolution 246 (III) had used the word "centre", it seemed that the Council should do the same.
20. Sir Ramaśwami MUDALIAR (India) thought that the "additional activities" mentioned in the second point of the Canadian amendment (E/L.54) probably referred to the "additional activities" described in paragraph 24 of the note by the Secretary-General. Among such activities, the Secretary-General mentioned special training projects, regional seminars and missions for the improvement of governmental agencies for allied purposes which would normally be carried out under the expanded programme for technical assistance.
21. In his opinion, the organization of regional seminars could not be financed under the expanded programme for technical assistance, because that programme should be limited to under-developed countries. Since any Member State could request the organization of a regional seminar in public administration, it would mean that technical assistance funds might also be used for assistance to countries which were not by any means under-developed. The Assistant Secretary-General had himself declared that assistance in the field of public administration would be given to all countries irrespective of their economic position. He believed, therefore, that it was necessary to clarify the exact meaning of the expression "additional activities".
22. Mr. JUVIGNY (France) was prepared to vote for the second part of the Canadian amendment, the sense of which he understood to be that a request which could not be met out of the funds of the general budget should be dealt with under the technical assistance programme. At the same time, he would welcome an explanation of the meaning of the term *activités nouvelles* [additional activities], used in the amendment.

23. Mr. Arnold SMITH (Canada), in reply, thought that *activités supplémentaires*, would be a more accurate rendering than *activités nouvelles*, which appeared in the French text of the Canadian amendment.

24. Mr. SCOPES (United Kingdom) objected to the use of the word "centre" in its existing context where it was meant to cover seminars all over the world. He believed that the correct title would be "International centre for the organization of training in public administration".

25. The PRESIDENT said that the existing title would have to be retained unless a specific alternative title were proposed and adopted by the Council.

26. Mr. JUVIGNY (France) recalled that the Council, at its tenth session,¹ had adopted an amendment submitted by the United Kingdom delegation which did not contain the term "Centre". The question could therefore be considered as settled, from a juridical point of view. However, the discussion at the previous meeting had shown that a large number of representatives attached considerable importance to the name of the institution.

27. In order to put an end to the confusion on the point, he formally moved the deletion from the title of the words "International centre for".

28. Mr. CABADA (Peru) observed that, if it was not intended to set up an actual institution and thus justify the use of the term "centre", then the title "Programme of training in public administration" would suffice.

29. Mr. JUVIGNY (France) and Mr. DELHAYE (Belgium) agreed with the Peruvian representative.

30. Mr. DE ALMEIDA (Brazil) said it should be remembered that the reason why the Council was discussing the problem under consideration was that the General Assembly had decided by its resolution 246 (III) that an international centre for training in public administration should be established, and had requested the Secretary-General to report detailed arrangements for such a centre to the Council for consideration. He believed that the Council had no competence to change a title chosen by the General Assembly. As the Peruvian representative wished to change the title in his draft resolution, he proposed that the Council should amend that draft resolution so as to restore the original title, which was the same as that used by the General Assembly in its resolution.

31. Mr. ENTEZAM (Iran) said that the Council was not asked to change a title chosen by the General Assembly; all it had to do was to decide upon a suitable title for one of its own resolutions. There had been precedents to show that committees of the General Assembly had not always felt bound to adopt the titles used by the Assembly itself.

32. The PRESIDENT declared the debate closed under rule 51 of the rules of procedure. He would ask the Council to vote in the following order: first, on the

Brazilian amendment to the Peruvian draft resolution (E/L.49), proposing that the title should read "International Centre for Training in Public Administration", as originally drafted, instead of "Programme for training in public administration", which had been accepted by the Peruvian representative; secondly, on the first part of the Indian amendment (E/L.55); thirdly, on the Canadian amendment (E/L.54). If the second part of the Canadian amendment were rejected, the Council would then vote on the second part of the Indian amendment (E/L.55) and the French amendment, which both proposed that the words "should be financed" in the final paragraph of the Peruvian draft resolution should be replaced by the words "may be financed".

The Brazilian amendment was rejected by 6 votes to 3, with 5 abstentions.

The first part of the Indian amendment was rejected by 8 votes to 6.

33. Mr. CABADA (Peru) having stated that he accepted the first part of the Canadian amendment, the CHAIRMAN stated that no vote on it was required. He then put the second part of the Canadian amendment to the vote.

The second part of the Canadian amendment was adopted by 11 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

34. Sir Ramaswami MUDALIAR (India) moved the insertion of the word "further" before the words "notes with approval" in the penultimate paragraph of the Peruvian draft resolution.

The amendment was adopted.

35. Mr. ROSEMAN (United States of America), in explanation of his vote, stated that his delegation was prepared to support the last paragraph of the draft resolution as amended by the Canadian representative, on the understanding that training in public administration under the expanded technical assistance programme should be consistent with the basic purpose of that programme. He wished it to be clearly understood that expenditures for that type of training—with which his Government was fully in sympathy—should, to the extent that they were financed from the expanded programme, be concerned primarily with the improvement of public administration in as yet under-developed countries. The expanded programme should not be used to train civil servants from the United States or from countries in a similar position.

36. Sir Ramaswami MUDALIAR (India) also stated that he would vote in favour of the draft resolution as amended, on the understanding that assistance should be devoted to the under-developed countries. He had raised that point in connexion with the second part of the Canadian amendment and wished to put it on record.

37. Mr. ENTEZAM (Iran) also expressed his delegation's support for the draft resolution in its amended form.

38. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the Peruvian draft resolution (E/L.49) as amended.

The resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*, tenth session, 371st meeting, paragraph 49.