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President: Sir Douglas COPLAND (Australia).

Present:

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, China, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, India, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

Observers from the following countries: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Iran, Uruguay.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization.

Arrangement of business for the resumed nineteenth session of the Council (E/L.661)

1. The PRESIDENT declared the resumed nineteenth session of the Economic and Social Council open and invited comments on the order of business set out in the working paper prepared by the Secretary-General (E/L.661).

2. Mr. LALL (India) proposed that consideration of the question of the world calendar reform (item 21) should be postponed until the Council's twenty-first session. The Secretary-General had asked the Governments of eighty States to communicate their views on the question. So far, only thirty had replied. Postponement of the item might induce more Governments to transmit their comments.

3. Mr. PEREZ PEREZ (Venezuela), Mr. SOBOLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia) and Mr. LOUTFI (Egypt) supported the proposal.

4. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) felt that Governments had had ample time to transmit their views. Moreover, in the light of previous experience in the United Nations, thirty was somewhat above the average number of replies. Those Governments which had failed to reply were probably not interested in the question.

5. Mr. SCOTT FOX (United Kingdom) and Mr. FORSYTH (Australia) agreed.

6. Mr. LALL (India) observed that, while the Council could not expect to receive replies from all the eighty Governments, less than half that number had responded to the Secretary-General's request. Moreover, a number of Governments were presumably awaiting the reactions of the Holy See, which was currently considering the question, before making their views known.

7. Mr. MIR KHAN (Pakistan) said that his Government would oppose any change in the calendar, on religious grounds, as would probably the Governments of all Moslem States. It might perhaps be wise to delete the item from the Council's agenda.

8. The PRESIDENT suggested that if the Council adopted the Indian proposal for postponement of the item, it should instruct the Secretary-General to communicate its decision to the Governments of the States which had not yet replied to his earlier communication.

9. Mr. LALL (India) accepted the suggestion.

10. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the proposal made by India that item 21 should be deferred to the Council's twenty-first session.

The proposal was adopted by 10 votes to 6, with 1 abstention.

11. Mr. STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia) proposed that the Council should arrange for a meeting of the Technical Assistance Committee to be held during the current session for the purpose of electing a Chairman and fixing a date on which its Working Group could meet. During the first part of the session several representatives had suggested that the Working Group should meet before 5 July.

The proposal was adopted.

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the nineteenth session (E/2732)

12. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) proposed that the question "Reorganization of the sessions of the Council" should be included in the agenda of the current session in view of its relationship with the revision of the Council's rules of procedure (item 23). Moreover, the matter could not be taken up at the twentieth session since the agenda of that session was already heavily overburdened. It could not be deferred to the resumed twentieth session since that would make it impossible to establish the calendar of conferences for 1956 at the forthcoming summer session as scheduled.

13. Mr. LALL (India) supported the proposal.

The proposal was adopted.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.