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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: Indonesia, Iran.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, World Health Organization.

AGENDA ITEM 22

Non-governmental organizations (*concluded*)

STATEMENT BY MR. VINCENT AURIOL, HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

1. The PRESIDENT welcomed Mr. Auriol, Honorary President of the World Veterans Federation, on the day of the Federation's admission to consultative status in category A. He paid a tribute to the work done by Mr. Auriol both in his own country, where he had held the highest office, and on the international level.
2. Mr. AURIOL (World Veterans Federation) thanked the President of the Council for his words of welcome. In 1945, the authors of the Charter had decided to invite non-governmental organizations to participate in the work of the United Nations; the ten years which had elapsed since then had proved that the United Nations required the active support of all peoples in order to fulfil the solemn pledge given to the world.
3. The World Veterans Federation regarded the Charter as a living document and considered that to implement it, it was necessary to eliminate poverty and despair, promote social advancement, and create better living conditions in an atmosphere of ever greater freedom. To that end, Governments and organizations which saw in the United Nations one of the great hopes of mankind should work and act in harmony.
4. Without the support of public opinion, the United Nations was doomed to be an academic institution and without the United Nations the hopes of the world

would remain dreams without fulfilment; that was why the Federation, which comprised more than 18 million men belonging to associations in twenty-nine nations of all continents, men who served no political party, but were united by the solidarity of former battles and the ideals which inspired them, wanted to co-operate in the common task of solidarity and peace. As Honorary President of the Federation and as a former Chief of State, he would be happy to help the Federation in its task.

5. The Federation should devote its efforts to the vocational and social rehabilitation not only of men disabled by war, but of all those disabled at birth or by disease. They all had the right to claim the assistance which would enable them to live a normal and socially useful life. The Federation would work with the United Nations and its organs, the specialized agencies, Governments and other non-governmental organizations in carrying out that task of rehabilitation; its permanent representative was taking an active part in that social work.

6. The Federation had participated in preparations for the seminar on selective placement recently held at Stockholm, its proposal to the Council of Europe had been accepted as the basis for a forthcoming international convention, and it was co-operating in the administration of the rehabilitation centre at Solo in Indonesia. In its co-operative tasks, the importance of which had been stressed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Federation was being assisted by leading experts.

7. The Federation also helped the "socially disabled", men who as a result of their race, religion or opinions were too often outcasts in modern society. Discriminatory practices, based on prejudice, particularly racial prejudice, still existed, and to combat them, it was essential, as the Economic and Social Council had recognized, to appeal to public opinion, in other words, to the non-governmental organizations. To that end, ninety-six non-governmental organizations had recently met at Geneva and, after earnest debates in which the representatives of all the churches and of all trade-union organizations had taken part, they had unanimously adopted a final act (E/NGO/CONF.1/8), which expressed the firm resolve of peoples to wage the vital struggle against prejudice and which was not merely an agreement of principle, but also provided for practical measures. The Geneva conference had inaugurated a new form of consultation between the Governments of States Members of the United Nations and the organizations associated with it.

8. He mentioned the Federation's contribution to the technical assistance programme, to Korean reconstruction, to assistance to under-developed countries and to the work of the United Nations Children's Fund and of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It was in order to expand that contribution that the Federation had asked for consultative status in category A. In acceding to the request, the Council

had recognized the right of veterans to belong to the group of great world organizations which could bring to the United Nations a renewed pledge of strength and faith.

AGENDA ITEM 20

**Relief and rehabilitation of Korea (E/2658,
E/2669, A/2750, A/2810)**

9. Mr. HOTCHKIS (United States of America) pointed out that the question of the relief and rehabilitation of Korea had already been studied in detail by the General Assembly. He therefore proposed that the

Council should take note of the report of the Agent General of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (A/2750).¹

10. Mr. BARNES (United Kingdom) and Mr. EPI-NAT (France) supported the proposal.

11. Mr. SOBOLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked for a vote on the proposal.

The proposal was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 20.*