

ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL

## OFFICIAL RECORDS



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*Acting President:* Mr. Jiří NOSEK (Czechoslovakia), *Outgoing Vice-President.*

*President:* Mr. S. Amjad ALI (Pakistan).

*Present:* The representatives of the following countries:

Argentina, Belgium, Canada, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Iran, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Observers from the following countries:  
Chile, Netherlands, Turkey.

The 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, World Health Organization.

### Opening of the session

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the fourteenth session of the Economic and Social Council, and expressed the hope that it would be successful.

### Point of order by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the representation of China on the Council

2. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) protested against the presence in the Council of a representative of the Kuomintang group instead of the lawful representative of the People's Republic of China. He recalled that the Central Government of the People's Republic of China had announced that it denied the right of the representative of the Kuomintang to represent China in any of the organs of the United Nations. That was a perfectly justifiable position.

World public opinion could not understand how the representative of the small Kuomintang group, which had been driven from Chinese territory, could claim to speak for China in the Economic and Social Council. His delegation was therefore submitting to the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution to exclude the representative of the Kuomintang group and to invite the representative of the Central Government of the People's Republic of China to take part in the Council's work.

3. Mr. BIRECKI (Poland) thought it out of the question that the Kuomintang group, which had been driven out of China, should still attempt to usurp the place which rightly belonged to the representative of the People's Republic of China. The interests of the United Nations would be served and the Council's authority reinforced if an end were put to a situation which prevented the legitimate representative of a population of 500 million people from participating in the work of the Economic and Social Council. His delegation therefore supported the USSR delegation's proposal.

4. Mr. LUBIN (United States of America) said that his Government had already made its position clear on that matter. The Council could not fittingly consider the USSR draft resolution while the Government of the People's Republic of China was adopting an attitude contrary to the requirements of international co-operation and intervening in Korea in defiance of the United Nations. He therefore moved the adjournment of the debate on the representation of China for the duration of the current session under rule 49 of the rules of procedure. Under rule 54 of the rules of procedure the motion for adjournment had precedence over the USSR representative's motion. If the Council adopted the motion for adjournment, the representative of the Nationalist Government would continue to occupy China's place in the Council.

5. Lord SELKIRK (United Kingdom) said that in view of the situation in Korea the present would not be a suitable time to discuss China's representation in the Economic and Social Council. It was clear that, even should the armistice negotiations be completed in the near future, some time would have to elapse before that question could be considered. He therefore seconded the United States representative's motion.

6. Mr. VAVRICKA (Czechoslovakia) thought that the United States representative's motion for adjournment limited the Council's competence by depriving it of the right to decide on the validity of its members' credentials. The proposal was contrary to the accepted principles of international law and was a procedural manoeuvre constituting a fresh insult to the Chinese people. On the other hand, the USSR representative's proposal might lead to a fair and constructive solution of a problem vital to the United Nations. Not only would participation of the legitimate Government of China in the work of the United Nations conform to the principles of international law, but it was also essential to the Council's work. His delegation would therefore vote against the United States motion for adjournment.

7. The PRESIDENT put the adjournment motion proposed by the United States representative to the vote.

*The motion was adopted by 14 votes to 4.*

8. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Council, in adopting the United States motion, had taken an unfair and illegal decision. In spite of that decision the true representative of China was obviously the representative of the Central Government of the People's Republic of China.

9. The time had come to realize that the course of history could not be turned back and that, in spite of United States financial aid to a corrupt régime, that régime had been rejected by the Chinese people. It was high time to understand that the historic upheaval the existence of which the United States was trying vainly to deny had led the Chinese people out of an era of colonialism, exploitation and poverty into one of dawning confidence in its historic destiny and social progress.

10. His delegation continued to urge that the legitimate aspirations of the Chinese people should be satisfied.

11. Mr. HSIA (China) thought that the USSR representative's draft resolution showed contempt for the decisions and authority of the General Assembly of the United Nations which had resolved that the question of representation should be considered by the General Assembly or its Interim Committee.

12. He quoted the first and second paragraphs of the operative part of resolution 396 (V) entitled "Recognition by the United Nations of the representation of a Member State", which the General Assembly had adopted on 14 December 1950, and pointed out that the Assembly had not thought it necessary to question China's representation.

13. Mr. BIRECKI (Poland), in explaining his vote, said that his delegation had not been at all surprised by the United States representative's motion for the adjournment of the debate, since the United States representative followed the same course on each similar occasion.

14. It was common knowledge that the United States regarded the Kuomintang group as its most loyal mercenaries in preparing for a new war.

15. He expressed surprise, however, that the United States representative should refer to a "Nationalist Government." He quoted a statement made by a group of United States senators who, speaking of the Kuomintang group ruling Formosa, said that neither the United States nor the Kuomintang group could afford to indulge themselves the luxury of Chinese sovereignty. That was a proof that even United States senators considered that the Kuomintang represented no one but itself.

16. Mr. VAVRICKA (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation had already explained its vote and that the Council's decision was another slight upon the great Chinese people and a violation of the Charter.

17. It postponed the day when the representatives of China would take their rightful place in the United Nations, but it could not alter historical facts.

## **Election of the President and Vice-Presidents for 1952**

[Agenda item 1]

18. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect a President, a First Vice-President and a Second Vice-President from among the representatives of its members, in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure.

### **ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT**

19. Lord SELKIRK (United Kingdom) nominated Mr. S. Amjad Ali (Pakistan) as President of the Council.

20. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stated that his delegation, with its usual loyalty to the representatives called upon to preside over the Council, would welcome the nomination of a representative of an under-developed country, who, it was convinced, would introduce into the Council's work the element of reality essential to its success. He recalled, however, the extremely complex nature of that work and drew the Council's attention to the importance of having as one of its officers a representative who knew the economic and living conditions in the vast territories of China, the USSR and the Peoples' Democracies of Eastern Europe. In that connexion he hoped that the Council would re-elect Mr. Nosek, the retiring Vice-President, whose high competence hardly needed emphasis.

21. Mr. ARDALAN (Iran) and Mr. BIRECKI (Poland) supported the nomination of Mr. Ali.

*Mr. S. Amjad Ali (Pakistan) was elected President by acclamation and took his place in the Chair.*

22. The PRESIDENT expressed his gratitude to the Council for the honour that had been done through him to the country he represented and to the other under-developed countries of the East. He saw in that honour an indication of esteem towards Pakistan, which since the tenth session of the Council had devoted itself constantly to the cause of all under-developed countries.

23. After paying tribute to the retiring President, Mr. Santa Cruz, and thanking the representatives of Chile, India and Peru on behalf of the Council for the part they had played in its work, he welcomed the representatives of Argentina and Egypt to their first, and also to a second, term of membership. He pointed out that the Council was sitting for the first time in its own Council Chamber, the decoration of which it owed to the generosity of the Swedish Government and the talents of the eminent architect and designer Sven Markelius.

24. As the General Assembly had concluded its work extremely late, the Council had been obliged not only to hold two sessions in one, but also to sit at the same time as two of its commissions. The current session might therefore be expected to be long and heavy and to impose a considerable burden on delegations and on the Secretariat. Moreover, the agenda contained items of the highest importance, on which he would dwell when the Council came to item 2. Nevertheless, he wished to make at once some general remarks which had occurred to him on reading the agenda.

25. One of the major groups of subjects with which the Council would have to deal was concerned with the economic development of under-developed countries. The economic experts who had drafted reports on that subject had well described it as "the most important single element in achieving an expanding world economy". It could be fairly claimed that the Council and the organizations associated with it had done much to make the key facts on the problems to be solved better known to all governments. Those facts were set out in a world economic survey, a preliminary report on the world social situation, the reports of the specialized agencies, and many other documents submitted to the Council. They might be summarized by stating that the gap between the standards of living in the developed and in the under-developed areas was increasing. The position in some under-developed regions represented a vicious circle. In order to achieve economic and social progress and even political stability, those countries had to use their resources in direct improvement of standards of living. Nevertheless, the level of their national income in relation to that of the necessary investments did not enable them to do so. In most cases the circle could only be broken by external help added to internal effort. Although the external help essential to prevent the gap from widening might seem considerable, it was comparatively modest when set against the level of current expenditure on armaments. It was in any case well beyond what private investors could provide in the existing circumstances; although that did not mean that private investment, which had hitherto been lacking, could not make an important contribution.

26. Such a statement might be called over-simplified, but it was better to over-simplify than to be intimidated by the complexities and the difficulties of the situation.

27. There were some potentially favourable elements in the situation, which the Council had to emphasize. For instance, the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and other extensive technical assistance programmes that had been undertaken, could greatly increase the technical capacity of the under-developed countries to solve their own problems. The world was becoming increasingly aware of the difficulties to be surmounted and of the possibilities of progress. It should be possible to reconcile the need of the under-developed countries for the products and technical skills of the industrialized countries with the desire of the developed countries to maintain full employment and to expand their markets. That reconciliation was essential in view of the recessions prevailing throughout the world and the greater recessions which might arise in the future. The Council would have to consider all those matters in assessing the practical advantages of the various schemes and programmes before it.

28. He had referred to the preliminary report on the world social situation, which appeared for the first time on the Council's agenda. The Secretary-General had given a very clear idea of the limiting conditions under which that report had been produced. In spite of the shortcomings of that first attempt, the Council would acknowledge that the report constituted an important stage of its work. On reading the report he had realized more clearly than ever before the interdependence of the economic and social aspects of the problems before the Council, and the wisdom of its founders in giving the Council its two-fold competence.

29. The Council's agenda contained many items relating to human rights. That sphere also held great opportunities for vision and imagination. The Council ought not to be discouraged because the path to be covered was a thorny and difficult one. In carrying out its tasks the Council ought to bear two considerations in mind: first, every agenda item was primarily concerned with human beings; secondly, if the Council found that it could not make the progress it desired on a given question, it should resolve to redouble its efforts on others.

30. It was most important for the Council to take the initiative in all the problems within its competence. He would play the active part incumbent upon him as President both with regard to the peoples of the world and to the sixty States Members of the United Nations, and would be continually mindful of their trust in him.

#### ELECTION OF THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

31. Mr. PHARAONY (Egypt), supported by Mr. BIRECKI (Poland), proposed the nomination of Mr. Nosek (Czechoslovakia).

32. Mr. LUBIN (United States of America) proposed the election of Mr. Rodríguez Fabregat (Uruguay).

33. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) stated that, although very touched by the esteem and trust that had been expressed by the United States representative, he regretted that he was unable to accept the honour done to him, since as a newcomer to the Council he would prefer to yield to a better-qualified candidate.

*Mr. Nosek (Czechoslovakia) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.*

ELECTION OF THE SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

34. Mr. LESAGE (Canada), supported by Mr. DE SEYNES (France), proposed the nomination of Mr. Scheyven (Belgium).

*Mr. Scheyven (Belgium) was elected Second Vice-President by acclamation.*

35. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should decide to meet in plenary session from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.