ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Fourteenth Session, 585th

MEETING

Thursday, 29 May 1952, at 3 p.m.

Dage

NEW YORK

OFFICIAL RECORDS

CONTENTS

2.0	uye
Development of arid land (E/2191 and Add.1) (continued))
International co-operation on water control and utilization (E/2205 and Add.1, E/L.337 and Rev.1, E/L.341, E/L.343, E/L.345, E/L.348 and E/L. 349) (continued)	91
Request by the Commission on Human Rights for an extension of the duration of its current session (E/L.347)	96

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:

Ir ternational Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Health Organization.

Development of arid land (E/2191 and Add.1) (continued)

International co-operation on water control and utilization (E/2205 and Add.1, E/L.337 and Rev.1, E/L.341, E/L.343, E/L.345, E/L.348, and E/L.349) (continued)

[Agenda items 6 and 7]

1. Mr. CHA (China) pointed out that the Chinese people were not unaware of the problems inherent in the control and utilization of water and the development of arid land. China was an immense country with a very ancient civilization, and for more than a thousand years the Chinese had laboured patiently, using very primitive methods, to build a remarkable network of irrigation canals. In that connexion he described the work done in certain provinces, particularly in Szechwan, Shensi and Ninghsia. The Chinese had long ago

learned to use water not only for irrigation, but also as a source of mechanical power.

- 2. Floods frequently ravaged entire regions of China, and the need to combat them had led the Chinese people to develop and perfect the technique of dyke and dam construction long before they had been able to profit from the Western world's knowledge of science.
- 3. The people of China had also had to struggle against other scourges of nature, particularly erosion. A thousand years previously the province of Shensi had been fertile, but it had become more and more arid. There was also the tendency of the Mongolian desert to extend southwards. The problem of the struggle against the inroads of the desert was therefore also known in China. The Chinese had attempted to halt the spread of desert zones by means of irrigation, but they had made very little use of reafforestation, although that would have been an effective method of combating erosion. Perhaps because of the expenses involved that method was not greatly used.
- 4. As to the island of Formosa, that part of China had very special hydrographic conditions because of its mountainous terrain and its climate. The summer typhoons brought torrential rains, which caused floods in a country where the type of soil and the terrain encouraged run-off. Accordingly, the rainy season was generally followed by a period of serious drought. The Chinese Government had therefore been fostering the construction of reservoirs, dykes and dams. It had also encouraged private persons to dig wells to exploit subterranean water reserves. Those efforts had met with success and had made it possible to expand the area under sugar cane and rice crops.
- 5. He paid a tribute to the Secretariat, which had given the Council ample documentation on the question of the development of arid lands and on the control and utilization of water. He was also glad to note the im-

portant work of UNESCO, FAO and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in that matter. The Bank had played a primary role in the financing of water works. In that connexion he would like the representative of the Bank to explain the figures mentioned in two different United Nations documents. According to the information in paragraph 46 of document E/2191, in 1950 and 1951, the Bank had allocated a total of \$42,600,000 to finance projects for the development of arid lands. On the other hand, paragraph 89 of document E/2205 stated that the Bank had granted loans amounting to \$225 million for the construction of hydro-power works. He asked whether the latter sum included the \$42,600,000 allocated for the development of arid land.

- 6. Supporting the joint draft resolution of the Philippines and the United States of America (E/L.337) and the joint Belgian-Canadian amendment to it (E/L.341), he suggested that the four delegations might work out a single text. He also supported the French amendment (E/L.343), but suggested that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development should be included among the specialized agencies whose collaboration would be sought in future studies of arid land and water resource problems.
- 7. The representatives of Czechoslovakia and the USSR had lauded the achievements of the communist régime in China and in particular, had said that the communist Government had employed three million workers to fight against floods. The truth was that three million workers had been taken away from their families, transported often far from their homes and forced to live and work in extremely arduous conditions. The communist Government's chief purpose had been to subject those workers to communist and intensive anti-Western propaganda rather than to have them carry out effective flood control projects. The representatives of the USSR and Czechoslovakia had failed to mention that China had been laid waste by catastrophic floods.
- 8. According to the Czechoslovak representative, the USSR had aided the communist régime by sending it technical advisers. Although the Government of China had often benefited from the aid of foreign experts, it was quite a different matter when the régime employed the nationals of one foreign State only and was willing to submit to the domination of that State.
- 9. Mr. LOPEZ HERRARTE (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development), replying to the Chinese representative, explained that according to a table in document E/2205/Add.1, as of 31 March 1952, the loans granted by the Bank to promote the use of hydro power resources had amounted to \$221,400,000, distributed as follows:

Hydro power: \$181,600,000;

Irrigation and flood control: \$32,400,000;

Control of water ways and canals: \$7,400,000.

- 10. He also referred to the information appearing in paragraph 32 and in footnote 15 of document E/2205.
- 11. Mr. SALAH-UD-DIN (Pakistan) was gratified to note the interest which the United Nations and the specialized agencies were taking in the development of arid zones and in the rational utilization of water re-

- sources, and he thanked the Secretary-General for the detailed reports he had prepared on the subject.
- 12. Almost all of West Pakistan lay in an arid zone, where crops could only grow by irrigation. In addition, Pakistan must now face the problems caused by the increases of population. Since partition in 1947, Pakistan had had to take in a very large number of refugees; at the present time they were arriving at the rate of about five thousand a week. That influx raised many problems of rehabilitation, housing and food in a country where the economy was predominantly agricultural and dependent to a large extent on the vagaries of nature.
- 13. In its efforts to cope with the situation, his Government had made use of new agricultural techniques and was attempting to bring arid land under cultivation. To do so it would have to develop the irrigation system considerably. To that end, the Pakistani authorities could use the waters of certain large rivers flowing through the arid zones for productive purposes. Pakistan had therefore undertaken multi-purpose irrigation programs, and projects for the exploitation of the hydropower resources, which were scheduled to be carried out under the six-year national development plan. Under that plan there was a Lower Sind barrage project which aimed at bringing 2,800,000 acres of arid land under irrigation. The project would be completed in 1955.
- 14. A second project known as the Thal project was based on the utilization of the waters of the Indus: 250,000 acres of land had already been brought under the plough and it was hoped that in five years 2 million acres of arid land would be brought under cultivation. The authorities intended for the present to settle 250,000 refugees on 900,000 acres of land and to build about a thousand new villages. Measures had been taken to prevent waterlogging in the construction of new canals under that project.
- 15. The third project in the multi-purpose programme for the exploitation of water resources was the dam on the Kabul River, a tributary of the Indus. That installation, with a capacity of 180,000 kilowatts, would also make possible the irrigation of 100,000 acres of land. On the Kurram River, similar work would make possible the irrigation of 150,000 acres of arid land and the construction of a 4,000-kilowatt power station.
- 16. Pakistan was also faced with the problem of water-logging and accumulation of salts which had rendered waste 236,000 acres of land. While that area was increasing at the rate of 40.000 acres annually, the Government had been able to reclaim 25,000 acres of such land annually. Thus the waste area was increasing at the rate of 15,000 acres every year. The Government had completed the hydro-electric station at Rasul, primarily to work a chain of 4,800 tube wells which would be used to lower the water table in that area.
- 17. The carrying out of such schemes had imposed a very heavy burden, and if Pakistan did not receive technical, material and financial help from abroad, it would be difficult to finish the programme according to schedule. He took advantage of that opportunity to thank both the International Bank, which had promised to give Pakistan valuable financial assistance, and the Governments of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, which had given his country considerable technical and financial aid under the Colombo Plan.

- 18. Pakistan had other projects in view, which it would undertake after the successful completion of the current six-year plan. Once the refugees had been settled, the standard of living of the population would have to be raised and the economic development of the districts which had been returned to productivity promoted. The Pakistani Government intended, for example, to develop stock breeding and increase its herds of cattle. To do so, it would be necessary to establish pastures in the mountain districts. It also intended to reafforest those areas and thus, while helping to solve the problem of erosion, endow the country with a new source of natural wealth. In the same connexion, it would also be desirable to exploit the underground water resources in Baluchistan. Pakistan had already received technical aid from FAO in that respect.
- 19. Pakistan was grateful to the United Nations and the specialized agencies for their interest in the underdeveloped countries of Asia and Africa, but technical assistance was still in the preliminary stage. It was to be hoped that the United Nations, which had undertaken the task of raising the standard of living of the under-developed peoples, would devote ever greater efforts to that humanitarian work.
- There was a close connexion between the development of arid land and international co-operation on water control and utilization. In particular, so far as international rivers were concerned, inter-governmental agreements were essential to ensure an equitable distribution of water between the riparian countries. It would be useful if the Secretary-General could draw up a report on the question and if the Council could be asked to lay down the fundamental principles of international co-operation for the regulation, development and apportionment of water resources between riparian countries. On the basis of those principles, the United Nations could help the governments concerned to share the water resources of international rivers. That was a difficult task, which only an international authority could carry out successfully.
- 21. Mr. TERENZIO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that because of its limited resources UNESCO's programme for arid land was modest in relation to the size of the problem, but it had the double advantage of clear definition and close co-ordination.
- 22. UNESCO was attempting to promote scientific research with a view to solving the problem of the development of arid land. The initial project of establishing an international institute of the arid zone had been considered premature in 1949, but in 1950 UNESCO had drawn up a general programme of action which was being progressively implemented with the assistance of an Advisory Committee on Arid Zone Research. A specific subject was studied each year. In 1951, for example, UNESCO's action had been principally concerned with hydrology; in 1952 it had dealt with plant ecology; the subjects planned for 1953 and 1954 were respectively the source and use of energy with special reference to wind and solar energy, and the ecology of man in arid zones.
- 23. UNESCO was fully aware that the questions dealt with were part of a vast general programme, in which most of the United Nations specialized agencies were

- interested. Every stage of the drawing up and execution of its arid zone programme had therefore provided for the participation, in varying degrees, of the United Nations, ILO, FAO, WHO and WMO. They were represented at all the sessions of the Advisory Committee, took part in the discussions in which they were directly concerned, collaborated in enquiries and contributed to the preparation of documents. For example, a joint FAO-UNESCO mission had visited the former research station at Sidi-Mesri in Libya and made recommendations for its future development which had been approved by the Advisory Committee and would be applied by FAO.
- 24. At its third session, held in Ankara from 21 to 24 April, the Advisory Committee on Arid Zone Research had recommended to the Director-General that he should, with the participation of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, draw up a manual to serve as a guide for the collection of fundamental data on the improvement of living conditions in the arid zone.
- 25. In connexion with paragraph 1 (b) of the operative part of the joint draft resolution submitted by the Philippines and the United States of America (E/L. 337), he emphasized that, as the Secretary-General's report (E/2205/Add.1) indicated, UNESCO might contribute to three main branches of the joint effort: science, education and information.
- 26. So far as science was concerned, the arid zone programme, which had made it possible to carry out studies on hydrology in 1951 and at the beginning of 1952, was obviously contributing directly to the basic research on the problem before the Council. The problem of arid zones had special features of its own and though hydrology occupied an essential place, there were various important questions in that connexion which it was also very important to study.
- 27. UNESCO unreservedly approved the principles of the joint draft resolution (E/L.337) submitted to the Council and fully recognized the need for general coordination. It shared the opinion of FAO with regard to methods of co-ordination and thought that fairly flexible machinery, like that established for the continuing needs of children through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, would make possible a satisfactory distribution of functions and effective work with a minimum of expenditure.
- 28. UNESCO would be glad to contribute to the extent of its resources to any co-ordinated action recommended by the Economic and Social Council.
- 29. Mr. STERNER (Sweden) did not think it necessary to stress the importance to the economic development of under-developed countries of international cooperation on water control and utilization and the development of arid land.
- 30. As some delegations had pointed out, it was of great importance. Nor was it necessary to stress the work already done: the documents submitted to the Council were very eloquent on that point.
- 31. He would therefore confine himself to expressing his opinion on the joint draft resolution tabled by the United States of America and the Philippines (E/L. 337) and on the various amendments thereto.

- 32. The Swedish delegation could support the joint draft resolution as a whole, but it felt that some of the amendments were acceptable, for example that tabled by Belgium and Canada (E/L.341), especially that concerning the substitution of the word "collection" for the word "development" in paragraph 1 (b) of the operative part.
- 33. On the other hand, it was against the deletion of the words "balanced expansion" from paragraph 1(c).
- 34. With regard to the French amendment (E/L.343), he thought that the addition of the proposed new paragraph 3 would be useful, but felt that the word "invites" would have to be used in English to render the French term *invite*. He also wondered whether UNESCO and the other specialized agencies should be requested "to complete in collaboration with the Secretary-General their work . . .". It might be asked whether the Secretary-General was to collaborate on an equal footing or actually to co-ordinate the work.
- 35. Any elaborate administrative procedure should be avoided and, to that end, the competent water control and utilization organ should deal with those matters. All the members of the Council considered it essential to improve co-ordination and to increase co-operation and they appreciated the expediency of immediately transforming other irrigation or hydro-electric production programmes into programmes for the multiple utilization of hydraulic resources; on the other hand, it must be appreciated that each problem had its individual aspects and it was difficult to know how such problems could be solved in practice.
- 36. At all events, it was to be assumed that the United States and Philippine delegations did not contemplate that the Secretary-General would employ too large a specialized staff at Headquarters and if that assumption was correct, he was prepared to support the joint draft resolution. He would, however, welcome clarification on the point.
- 37. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether it was really necessary to spend the \$15,600 estimated by the Secretariat in document E/L.348, in the event that the Council adopted the joint draft resolution E/L.337. If so, he wondered how the expenditure would be met and whether it would be set against the United Nations regular budget or against those of the specialized agencies.
- 38. Mr. OWEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs) submitted to the Council the memorandum (E/L.348) on the financial implications of the joint draft resolution under consideration, which the Secretary General was presenting in accordance with rule 33 of the rules of procedure.
- 39. The Secretary-General was very anxious to abide by the General Assembly's instructions to avoid new expenditure. He therefore studied every proposal for extending the Secretariat's activities very carefully. It was in that spirit that he had undertaken the study contained in document E/L.348.
- 40. If the joint draft resolution was adopted, its implementation would involve additional expenditure of the order of \$15,600. Before the next session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General would scrutinize the budget of the Department concerned and

- would try to set aside the necessary amount from its apportionment. If that was impossible, he would be obliged to delay the implementation of the draft resolution and would so report to the Council at its next session. But it was to be hoped that the work of the Department could be reorganized in such a way as to meet the Council's wishes. That would not be known, however, before the end of the current session.
- 41. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for his explanation. The USSR delegation attached great importance to the judicious use of funds and felt that the financial implications of every new proposal should be carefully scrutinized and its usefulness in relation to its cost assessed.
- 42. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) considered that the best procedure for dealing with the joint draft resolution and the relevant draft amendments would be to refer them to the Economic Committee. The discussion had clearly shown the interest in the draft resolution and the care with which the sponsors of the draft and of the various amendments had prepared their texts. The subsequent debate had been of particularly high calibre.
- 43. For all those reasons, and in view of the special nature of the question, it should be referred for further study to the competent organ of the Council, which would prepare a final draft.
- 44. Mr. KAYSER (France) thought that the Council could conclude its consideration of the question during the current plenary meeting. The situation would soon be clarified if the sponsors of the joint draft resolution indicated which amendments they accepted. Moreover, there had already been exchanges of views before the meeting and there was no apparent difficulty in reaching a speedy agreement.

45. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Repub-

- lics) supported the French proposal. He felt that the Council should endeavour to settle the matter at once. 46. Mr. ARDALAN (Iran) asked whether the United States and Philippine delegations thought it possible to incorporate the amendments submitted by the Pakistani delegation (E/L.345) in their draft resolution. 47. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) stated that there was such a difference between the joint draft resolution and those amendments that such incorporation seemed impossible. He regretted that and thought that the Pakistani text ought to be considered as an amendment to the revised version of the joint
- 48. He then indicated to the Council which amendments proposed on the one hand by the Belgian and Canadian delegations and on the other by the French delegation were acceptable to his own delegation and to that of the Philippines.

draft resolution (E/L.337/Rev.1).

- 49. The Philippine and United States delegations accepted the first amendment submitted by the Belgian and Canadian delegations (E/L.341), suggesting the insertion of a new paragraph between the fourth and fifth paragraphs of the draft resolution.
- 50. They also accepted the proposed wording to replace paragraph 1 (a) of the operative part of the joint draft resolution, except for the introduction, which they had rephrased thus, with the consent of the sponsors of

the amendment: "in the promotion and co-ordination of international activity". The new text had the great advantage of not including the term "leadership", which had appeared in the English text of the original joint draft resolution and which, as the Swedish representative had feared, might have given the impression that a vast organization was contemplated. Again, the text was worded more positively than the original amendment so that, if the Council adopted it, provision would doubtless have to be made for adding one expert to the Secretariat.

- 51. The Philippine and United States delegations could not accept the proposed change in respect of subparagraph (b), because they preferred the word "development", which they considered to be wider in the case in point than the word "collection". Data had not only to be collected but also collated and studied.
- 52. Nor could they accept the change proposed in respect of paragraph 1 (c), but they had decided, in agreement with the sponsors of the amendment, to substitute the word "development" for the term "expansion" in the new paragraph.
- 53. They accepted the other amendments in document E/L.341, with a minor reservation concerning the words to be added to sub-paragraph 1 (e) (iv), which should read "and the Technical Assistance Board", not "or the Technical Assistance Board".
- 54. The Philippine and United States delegations accepted the first and third of the French delegation's amendments (E/L.343). They supported the second one in principle but, if the French representative agreed, they preferred to give it the simpler wording appearing in document E/L.349.
- 55. The revised version of the Philippine and United States joint draft resolution (E/L.337/Rev.1), which would soon be distributed to the members of the Council, had received the approval of the three other delegations directly concerned and he hoped that it would meet with the approval of the other members of the Council.
- 56. Mr. KAYSER (France) pointed out that the revised text was wider in scope than the original; it should therefore be entitled "Joint draft resolution concerning international co-operation on water control and utilization and the development of arid lands".
- 57. According to the wording of the new sub-paragraph contained in document E/L.349, the Council requested the Secretary-General to collaborate with the specialized agencies in studying the problems of arid areas. It would be better to request the Secretary-General to "continue" that collaboration.
- 58. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) supported the change of title proposed by the French representative. He was somewhat reluctant to accept his second suggestion because there had not yet been much international collaboration in that matter.
- 59. Mr. CREPAULT (Canada) said that his delegation would vote for the revised joint draft resolution.
- 60. As it was a compromise text, he imagined that it would not have the same financial implications as the original text, and that, consequently, the Secretary-General's memorandum no longer corresponded to the

situation. He wished to know the views of the Secretary-General's representative on that point.

- 61. Mr. OWEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs) thought that the estimate contained in document E/L.348 was still valid, as the United States representative himself had indicated, in his last statement, that he considered that the services of one expert would be required. The \$15,600 mentioned by the Secretary-General represented the salaries of an expert, an assistant and a secretary. Naturally the expert's pay and the amount of assistance he needed would depend on the responsibilities entrusted to him, which was a matter for the Council to decide.
- 62. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) said that his delegation shared the concern of the Canadian, Belgian and USSR delegations about the financial implications and agreed with them that the United Nations budget should be maintained at its present level. That was why he had noted with interest the first statement made by the Secretary-General's representative, in which he had said that it might be possible to absorb the \$15,600 without adding to the budget. On the other hand, the joint draft resolution dealt with a most important problem and should, therefore, be approved by the Council. His delegation relied on the Secretary-General to administer the funds at his disposal in such a way as to ensure that that important project would be effectively implemented.
- 63. Mr. CREPAULT (Canada) suggested that the Secretary-General should be asked to bear the debate in the Council in mind when drawing up the requisite budgetary provisions. The debate could be summarized as follows: the Council was of the opinion that the project should be put into effect, and that the expenditure involved should be met by the United Nations budget; if that were impossible, the Secretary-General should then consider holding back less important projects in favour of the one under consideration.
- 64. Mr. ARDALAN (Iran) was in favour of the Pakistani delegation's amendments (E/L.345), the true purpose of which was more clearly to define the idea underlying the joint draft resolution. If principles could be formulated to govern the regulation, development and apportionment of the waters of international rivers, many difficulties between nations would be avoided.
- 65. Nevertheless, two minor changes should be made in the second of the Pakistani amendments: the word "joint" should be deleted and the words "and sharing of waters" should be inserted after the word "utilization".
- 66. Mr. SALAH-UD-DIN (Pakistan) accepted those amendments.
- 67. Mr. MEADE (United Kingdom) regretted that his delegation would be unable to accept the Pakistani amendments. The first was tantamount to asking the Council to undertake a codification of international law, which was obviously outside its sphere; the second seemed to suggest that the Secretary-General should play the part of an international mediator, which was a question outside the scope of an essentially economic resolution. The amendments could form a separate resolution, but were out of place in the draft.

- 68. Mr. SALAH-UD-DIN (Pakistan) said that in deference to the United Kingdom representative's views, he was prepared to withdraw his first amendment. He wished, however, to maintain the second, as amended by the representative of Iran.
- 69. Mr. CREPAULT (Canada) observed that the part which the Secretary-General would be called upon to play, by virtue of the second Pakistani amendment, was approximately the same as that played by the technical assistance services. That sub-paragraph was therefore redundant, particularly as it raised objections of substance.
- 70. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) could not take part in the discussion until he had seen the revised text of the draft resolution. The problem under discussion was too serious to be dealt with lightly.
- 71. Mr. STANER (Belgium) agreed and suggested that voting on the revised draft resolution (E/L.337/Rev.1) and the Pakistani amendments (E/L.345) should be postponed until the next meeting.

It was so decided.

Request by the Commission on Human Rights for an extension of the duration of its current session (E/L.347)

- 72. The PRESIDENT said that he had received a letter from the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights (E/L.347) informing him of the Commission's decision to request the Economic and Social Council to extend the duration of its eighth session for one week, i.e., from 6 June to 13 June 1952 and to ask the Council to consider the matter at its earliest convenience.
- 73. The Council might place that matter on its agenda in pursuance of rule 16 of the rules of precedure.

 It was so decided.
- 74. Mr. SALAH-UD-DIN (Pakistan) said that his delegation thought, on the basis of information received from its representative on the Commission on Human Rights, that one week's extension would not serve any really useful purpose. It would not oppose the granting of an extension, however.
- 75. Mr. STERNER (Sweden) thought that, before taking any decision on the matter, the Council should ascertain whether the Commission on Human Rights would be able to achieve such concrete results as would enable it to submit completed documents to the Council for communication to the General Assembly.
- 76. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights should be asked to give the Council the information requested.

It was so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Charles Malik, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, took a place at the Council table.

- 77. Mr. Charles MALIK (Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights) recalled that during the General Assembly's sixth session in Paris, the Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, when organizing the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, had envisaged the Council meeting between 14 April and 6 June and not between 21 April and 6 June (E/2170). The Committee had added that, as the Council would be sitting at the same time as the Commission, it could extend the Commission's session should that prove necessary.
- 78. Had the Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences not included that proviso in its report, the Commission on Human Rights would not have felt obliged to refer to the Council before deciding to extend its session. Indeed, it had often extended its sessions in the interest of its work.
- 79. He hoped that the Council would take a favourable view of the request of its subsidiary organ, which, as the Council knew, had a very heavy agenda. It was true that an extension of one week would not suffice for the Commission to complete its agenda—that would be a superhuman task—but it would enable the members of the Commission, who were working without respite, to perfect the wording of the draft international covenants and to present to the Council and the General Assembly a text of which they need not be ashamed.
- 80. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) thought that the Council should accede to the request of the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission was engaged on a very difficult task, which should not be interrupted at a time when it was nearing completion.
- 81. Mr. CREPAULT (Canada) indicated that his delegation agreed that it would probably be desirable to allow the Commission on Human Rights to finish at least the work it had started. For that reason, his delegation would support the proposal. In doing so, however, his delegation was expressing the hope that that decision would not be looked upon as a precedent by other functional commissions.
- 82. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the request of the Commission on Human Rights for an extension of its eighth session by one week (from 6 to 13 June 1952).

The Council decided by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions, to grant the request.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.