

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS



Fourteenth Session, 599th

MEETING

Wednesday, 11 June 1952, at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

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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, Yugoslavia.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Bank of Reconstruction and Development.

World economic situation (E/2193/Rev.1¹, E/2193/Add.1² and Corr.1, E/2193/Add.2³ and Corr.1, E/2193/Add.3⁴ and Corr.1) (continued)

[Agenda item 3]

General debate (continued)

1. Mr. LUBIN (United States of America) said that during the debate on the world economic situation some delegations had raised important points on economic development, commodity arrangements and full employment. The ideas expressed deserved serious consideration and he would comment on them in connexion with the discussion of other items on the agenda.

2. The delegations of the USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia and the representative of the WFTU had made a number of assertions which did not merit serious consideration. He wished however to correct some of the errors and misrepresentations which had been

placed on record by those speakers. He would not occupy the Council's time by correcting all their misstatements; instead, he would circulate a memorandum exposing them as such.

3. He must however refer to a few of the comments made by representatives of the Eastern European countries. The Polish representative, for example, had exalted his country's economic progress by comparing its current with its pre-war output (593rd meeting). But he had failed to mention that after the war Poland had taken over a rich area of Eastern Silesia, with its mines and power stations, and that the population of Poland had decreased. In those circumstances, an increase in output could scarcely be avoided.

4. The USSR representative had referred to the sad condition of the United States, saying that its national income was controlled by a few monopolistic capitalists, and that the living standard of the masses was steadily decreasing. In particular that representative had pointed out the heavy incidence of indirect taxation on the United States population (591st meeting). In that connexion, it was interesting to note that the report of the Economic Commission for Europe⁵ indicated that the USSR derived most of its national revenue from a general sales tax which, in contrast to the progressive income tax in the United States, weighed more heavily on small incomes than on large. In the USSR every-day commodities, such as salt, were heavily taxed, whereas the taxation on luxury articles was relatively light.

5. He must draw attention to the absurdity of the USSR delegation's charge (591st meeting) that there were 13 million fully or partially unemployed in the United States. The correct figures were given in his memorandum.

6. Turning to the question of trade relations between the countries of the East and West, he said that the misrepresentation of the United States position could

¹United Nations Publications, Sales No.: 1952.II.C.4.

²United Nations Publications, Sales No.: 1952.II.C.1.

³United Nations Publications, Sales No.: 1952.II.C.2.

⁴United Nations Publications, Sales No.: 1952.II.C.3.

⁵See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, fourteenth session, Supplement No. 5.*

not be allowed to pass without comment. For the past few years it had been necessary for the United States and other countries of the free world to take security measures affecting trade with the Soviet Union and the countries it dominated. After the Second World War it had become clear that the Soviet Union would not co-operate with its wartime allies in promoting the economic recovery of Europe. The Soviet Union had maintained its armed forces and had concentrated its resources on military output, obtaining from the United States and other industrial countries the equipment and materials necessary to increase its war potential. In February 1948, the Communist *coup* in Czechoslovakia had made plain the USSR's aggressive aims. The peoples of other countries had, of course, been deeply disturbed and the Western countries had found it necessary to look to their security. One measure adopted had been the development of a system of controls over exports of strategic materials to the Soviet bloc. Such restrictions represented one part of the programme by which the free countries were strengthening themselves in order to repel aggression of the sort that had occurred in Czechoslovakia and Korea.

7. That had been the United States policy since 1948. But the United States did not oppose exports of non-strategic goods to the Soviet bloc. As it happened, United States trade with Soviet bloc countries had never been large; for economic reasons for many decades it had constituted only about 1 per cent of its total trade. Some Western European countries, however, had maintained a substantial trade with Eastern Europe, obtaining timber, coal and grain in exchange for manufactured goods.

8. Recent statements in the Council purported to show that the United States had tried to prevent that trade in peaceful goods. The truth was that it was not opposed to such trade. Soviet tirades on trade controls were all too familiar and were merely evidence of the effectiveness of the system of control of strategic materials. But recently there had been a new trend. Representatives of the Soviet bloc now spoke not only of the wickedness of the United States control of strategic materials, but of the value and necessity of expanding world trade in general. The impression might be gained that the Soviet Union had abandoned the policy of economic self-sufficiency which had been proclaimed by Lenin himself in 1920 and reiterated in 1941 by a prominent Soviet economist in "Foreign Trade of the USSR".

9. In 1946, with the post-war creation of a Soviet sphere of influence, Moscow had imposed the same policy on the Soviet bloc as a whole, redirecting its trade within the bloc and limiting imports to goods essential for industrialization and rearmament. That policy had been consistently followed. It was stated again in a Czechoslovak directive issued in the Spring of 1950 which provided that only absolute essentials were to be imported from capitalist countries, that payment should, so far as possible, be made in non-essential goods, and that goods should be transported through Polish ports and carried by Soviet ships. There were to be no exports of strategic goods to capitalist countries and nothing was to be delivered to them which was required in the Soviet Union or the People's Democracies.

10. He had expounded the history of Soviet trade policy in some detail in order to focus attention on the current appeal for an expansion of trade between the Soviet countries and those of the free world. He would be only too glad if he could believe that that appeal marked an essential change in Soviet doctrine, but it was difficult to do so when one recalled the extent to date of Soviet co-operation in solving world trade problems. The Soviet Union had not voted for the calling of a United Nations world trade conference at the Council's first session in 1946; it had not participated in the preparations for the Havana Conference or in the Conference itself; it had not taken part in the negotiations for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; it had not joined the International Monetary Fund or the International Bank; it had not accepted the offer of the United States, the United Kingdom and France to collaborate in preparing a programme for the economic recovery of production and trade in Europe in 1947. And, not content with declining to participate in those major projects of international co-operation, it had done its best to discredit and sabotage them at every opportunity.

11. It might be said that Soviet doctrine and behaviour towards those international organizations and programmes did not reflect its actual practice in concrete transactions. It was scarcely necessary to refer to the notorious way in which British businessmen had been treated in communist China.

12. He would however mention the difficulties encountered by the United States in attempting to do business with communist Czechoslovakia. The property of United States nationals in Czechoslovakia had been confiscated without compensation; the Czechoslovak Government had harassed United States firms to such an extent as to render it virtually impossible for them to do business there; the Czech Government, like all Soviet bloc Governments, had declared it treasonable for its citizens to furnish the normal trade information necessary for the conduct of business; United States charitable organizations had been forced to discontinue their work in Czechoslovakia; and United States citizens had been imprisoned without justification.

13. It was plain that Soviet doctrine and practice in international trade made it impossible to accept as valid recent Soviet appeals for expansion of trade. He did not thereby imply that the United States and other free countries would not welcome *bona fide* action by the Soviet Union to increase world trade. They could not however do so at the price of their national security. Soviet Union trade propaganda would be more credible if it were not accompanied by acts of aggression and subversion, but until Soviet actions in that respect changed, the Western countries must continue to accept the desires expressed by the Soviet Union for peace and trade with reservations.

14. Nevertheless, it was still the policy of the United States to promote trade in peaceful goods and he hoped that such trade would help to keep open the lines of communication between the peoples of the free world and those of the Soviet bloc.

15. It had been said by the representative of the Soviet Union that the United States feared peace and that its defence programme had been initiated in order to ward off a depression. But, after a brief period

of readjustment in 1949, the United States economy had been operating at near capacity before the Communist attack in Korea in June 1950, and an extra strain had been placed on its economy by the defence programme of which it would be glad to be relieved. The United States feared neither peace nor war, although it cherished peace and abhorred war, and it was confident of its ability to solve the problems of both. It had been repeatedly made evident, by the actions of the free nations of the world, that the solution, within the framework and spirit of the Charter, of the problems raised by Soviet imperialism depended almost entirely on the Soviet Union. But, come what might, it was his Government's firm determination to press on with the United Nations work of establishing higher living standards for people everywhere.

16. The PRESIDENT said that, since the remaining speakers on the world economic situation preferred to speak in the afternoon, the Council would take up the next item on its agenda: the expanded programme of technical assistance.

The debate was adjourned.

Programmes of technical assistance: (b) expanded programme (E/2238 and E/L.352)

[Agenda item 22 (b)]

17. Mr. DE SEYNES, Chairman of the Technical Assistance Committee, stated that the report of TAC (E/2238) spoke for itself but that he and his colleagues would be pleased to clarify any points that were obscure.

18. The reasons for the changes recommended by TAC were set forth in paragraph 5 of the report. It had been felt, to quote from the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (E/2161), that stronger central leadership and more continuous central guidance would be necessary to ensure that well-integrated and balanced programmes were being developed and implemented which would meet the most effective impact on the problems of economic and social development in under-developed countries, and ensure the most efficient utilization of the resources available for the Programme. Approximately eighteen months after the launching of the expanded Programme, TAC had felt that the situation should be surveyed to ascertain whether the measures of implementation being applied actually met the requirements of the Programme. That did not imply any criticism of what had already been done; in reviewing the situation, TAC had merely taken stock of the new circumstances which had appeared. It had felt that, in view of certain new developments since 1949, some changes in the administration of the Programme were apposite.

19. In order to promote the more effective operation of the Programme, TAC had recommended the appointment of a full-time Chairman (*Président directeur*). Such an appointment would strengthen the powers of the Chairman and strengthen the co-operation already maintained between the Chairman and the representatives of the specialized agencies on the Board. He wished to stress that point, particularly because a certain newspaper, normally exceptionally accurate in its presentation of news, had the previous day published

an article referring to a decision which had not yet been adopted by the Council, including comments on the relationship between the Chairman of the Board and representatives of the specialized agencies which were quite fantastic and unworthy of a journalist accredited to the United Nations. The part of the draft amendment in question was intended merely to strengthen the harmony and close co-operation which had always existed between the Chairman of the Board and representatives of the specialized agencies.

20. He noted that the Cuban representative, in his amendment (E/L.352) to the proposal submitted by TAC, had suggested that the appointment in question should be for a fixed term of years.

21. Mr. HILL (Secretariat) explained that he had been requested by the Secretary-General, who had been unable to attend the current meetings of the Council, to make the following statement on his behalf:

"The future organization of the Technical Assistance Board has for some time been the subject of consideration at the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination by myself and the executive heads of all the specialized agencies, and full account has been taken of our views in the reports of the Working Party and of the Technical Assistance Committee of the Council. One of our suggestions, to which we all attach great importance and which has been endorsed by the Technical Assistance Committee of the Council, is the appointment of a full-time Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board, with considerably increased responsibilities. Subject to the endorsement of this suggestion by the Economic and Social Council, I have had consultations with my colleagues of all the specialized agencies concerned regarding the appointment of a suitable person as Executive Chairman. It has been unanimously agreed that the person best fitted for this task would be Mr. David Owen, Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Economic Affairs, who has been acting as my representative in the Chair of the Technical Assistance Board since the establishment of that body.

"Should the Council approve this plan, it would therefore be my intention to second Mr. David Owen from his present departmental duties in order that he might devote his full time to the Executive Chairmanship of the Technical Assistance Board. I would not at this time propose to set any term to this arrangement since the Technical Assistance Committee has itself emphasized that the organization of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance must still be considered as being in an experimental phase.

"As Mr. Owen will continue to receive his salary and allowances as Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, this arrangement will not entail any additional expense.

"During the period of Mr. Owen's secondment, I would ask Mr. Guillaume Georges-Picot, Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Social Affairs, to act also as head of the Department of Economic Affairs."

22. Mr. PEREZ CISNEROS (Cuba) congratulated the Chairman of TAC on his admirable presentation of the report. The Cuban delegation appreciated the work already achieved in administering the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and agreed that it was

necessary to strengthen it and to ensure a more effective administration of technical assistance resources.

23. He drew attention to the amendment (E/L.352) submitted by his delegation to the draft resolution contained in annex I of the report (E/2238).

24. He agreed that the Executive Chairman of the Board should have the responsibilities and functions within the purposes of Council resolution 222 (IX), but felt that provision should be made for the Council to alter the powers of the Chairman when it saw fit, although in practice it might never have occasion to take such action. That was the purpose of the first part of the Cuban amendment.

25. When the Cuban delegation had prepared the second part of its amendment, it had been unaware that the Secretary-General intended Mr. Owen to act as full-time Chairman. He was pleased at the selection of an official of such competence and integrity and hoped that the heavy administrative burden placed on Mr. Georges-Picot would not prevent the two departments of the Secretariat from working as efficiently as before. He wished Mr. Georges-Picot every success in his additional assignment. As his delegation had been informed that a person in whom all members of the Council could place their confidence would be appointed for the first term of two years, it wished to withdraw the second part of its amendment while reserving the right to reintroduce it if, on the expiry of Mr. Owen's term of office, new arrangements were contemplated which appeared to be unsatisfactory.

26. He pointed out a discrepancy between the French and English text of the first part of his amendment; the English text reproduced the correct meaning.

27. Mr. HASAN (Pakistan) said that, when his delegation had first heard of the proposal to appoint an Executive Chairman, it had felt certain misgivings about granting such wide powers to one individual. The knowledge that Mr. Owen had been selected was a great relief. There was no doubt that there would be greater co-ordination in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and that was bound to be of great advantage.

28. He stressed that the under-developed countries, including the countries of Asia, were very meagrely represented in the United Nations Secretariat. Much had been said in the United Nations about the under-developed countries, but there was an apparent reluctance to employ their nationals in the Secretariat. The reason was certainly not incompetence, because, after his initial acquaintance with the Technical Assistance Administration, he had been convinced that the under-developed countries could offer some competent personnel and experts. It was not a question of appointing officials from the under-developed countries, where they were in short supply, but rather of giving them the opportunity of training to serve the interests of their countries. In certain cases the specialized agencies contributed enthusiasm rather than ability to the execution of the technical assistance programme and it was hoped that experts of higher calibre would be sent. He felt sure that Mr. Owen was sympathetic towards the under-developed countries in that connexion.

29. Lord SELKIRK (United Kingdom) expressed his appreciation of the TAC report which had been very ably drafted and presented by the Chairman of

TAC. One of the virtues of the report was its reproduction and amplification of the very sound recommendations made by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in its report on the same subject (E/2161).

30. Increased co-ordination had developed between the technical assistance activities of the United Nations and of the various specialized agencies engaged in the Expanded Programme. The strengthening of the Technical Assistance Board had grown naturally out of the experience thus gained. The officials of the various international organizations on the Board were developing a team spirit and a sense of mission which augured well for the future. The small but hard-working secretariat of the Board deserved praise. It was also gratifying that the International Bank and the International Monetary Fund would continue to participate in the work of the Board, even though they were not formally members of it.

31. So far the Secretary-General had been Chairman of the Board, a function which he had largely delegated to the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs. The system had worked well, but there was general agreement that, as the programme grew in size and importance, it was likely to become increasingly difficult for the Assistant Secretary-General to perform his regular duties and at the same time to carry on a full-time assignment in another capacity. His delegation therefore supported the recommendation that a permanent Executive Chairman should be appointed.

32. That appointment would defeat its object unless, in addition to other more obvious qualities, the personality of the Chairman commanded the confidence and support of all the organizations engaged in technical assistance work. He fully trusted the Secretary-General's ability to select a person with those qualities, and that confidence had been confirmed by the selection of Mr. Owen.

33. Co-ordination between the organizations engaged in technical assistance work could only be achieved in a spirit of co-operation and harmony which the right kind of Chairman could do much to promote. Provision was made in the report of TAC for settling cases in which there might be disagreement, but elsewhere in the report the assumption could be noted that the decisions of the Board would normally be made on the basis of general agreement; recourse to a voting procedure would thus be the exception rather than the rule.

34. With regard to the relationship between governments and the Board, his delegation attached the greatest importance to the general principles set out in annex I of the report. It was important that, whenever economic development was discussed, it should be clearly realized that the initiative for requests and the ultimate responsibility for development plans lay with the governments concerned. It was in that sense and with that limitation that he interpreted the Board's responsibilities for facilitating the development of "integrated country programmes".

35. The importance of sound and practical planning at the national level was obvious and deserved to be emphasized. But the international staff engaged on technical assistance, in their desire to co-operate in the

development of integrated country programmes, should not overlook or delay less ambitious requests from governments which might feel that, with existing resources and manpower, they should move gradually in order to consolidate their development over a period of time.

36. If his comments were suitable guidance for the Board and its Chairman they were equally applicable to the functions of technical assistance resident representatives, who had a useful function to perform. As pointed out in the report (E/2238, paragraph 20), it was still too early to define closely their precise duties, but it was clear that the principal function of resident representatives was to co-ordinate the various technical assistance activities in a given country. There should be no question of a technical assistance representative substituting his own personal judgment for that of the representative of a specialized agency in any technical matter, nor of his preparing on his own any comprehensive development plans for the country in which he might be stationed. Should the government of a country make a request to the resident representative for assistance in framing a comprehensive development plan, the proper course would be for the resident representative to refer the request to Headquarters, with the recommendation that the necessary experts, or the service of a technical assistance mission, be offered to the government of the country concerned. In other words, the resident representative's function was to promote good and useful relations among representatives of the specialized agencies and the TAA, and between them and the government of the country in which he was stationed. The proposals in the report did not suggest a departure from the current practice whereby individual projects, within the competence of a particular agency, were negotiated by the representative of that agency with the government concerned or at the request of one of the agencies. Any assistance rendered by the Board's representative in such negotiations would be given at the request of the government concerned, but he himself would not normally be a principal in the negotiation.

37. With regard to the allocation of funds from the Special Account to the various organizations participating in the Expanded Programme, resolution 222 (IX) laid down a scale authorizing allocations to the various organizations on the basis of fixed percentages. Those percentages conformed to the part which the Council estimated each organization might play in the programme as a whole. At Geneva in 1951, although the programme had not been in progress for very long, the Council had felt that the arrangements might be improved if given greater flexibility; it had accordingly decided that only one-half of the monies accruing to the Special Account should be allocated on the basis of fixed percentages and the balance might be allocated by the Board at its discretion. Although the report did not contain specific proposals for further departures from the original arrangement, he felt that it confirmed by implication the tendency to depart from fixed allocations. The trend was towards a system of allocations by the Board on the merits of the projects submitted to it by the participating organizations.

38. In the interests of efficiency it was essential that whatever system was followed, it should work in such

a way as to avoid unnecessary delay between the formulation of a given project and the time when money was made available to put it into effect. Secondly, the system should be so devised as to provide the participating organizations with some measure of certainty concerning the amount of money which was likely to be made available to them for technical assistance projects over a period of time so that they might plan ahead. Thirdly, it would be a mistake to introduce radical changes in the system of allocation of funds unless there were in the Board precisely that type of general agreement and harmony among the participating organizations which he had earlier declared to be so desirable in all matters of major importance.

39. It was because the original method of fixed allocations on a percentage basis had appeared to meet those requirements that his delegation would not like to see it abandoned too hastily. Even if fixed percentages, as laid down in resolution 222 (IX), were to be progressively relaxed, he strongly hoped that they would continue to serve as a guide.

40. Subject to those general observations which might serve as an interpretation of the report, his delegation was pleased to endorse the recommendations contained in it.

41. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) stressed his country's continued interest in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The Council had recognized that fact when it had elected as Chairman of the Technical Assistance Committee the Philippine representative who unfortunately had been unable to attend the current session. The Philippine delegation noted with satisfaction that he had been replaced by Mr. de Seynes who had a thorough knowledge of the problems involved.

42. The Philippine attitude towards the report of TAC was governed by its desire to promote all possible measures which would expedite the flow of technical assistance to governments in need. The recommendations in the Committee's report and in particular the appointment of a full-time Chairman of the Board would undoubtedly help to achieve that end.

43. His delegation had been gratified to hear of the appointment of Mr. Owen, who had considerable experience in the field, as Executive Chairman of the Board. It was also gratifying to hear that Mr. Georges-Picot, in addition to his duties as Director of the Department of Social Affairs, was to become Acting Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs. That administrative change was in keeping with the view expressed by some representatives in the General Assembly that for purposes of economy the two Departments should be consolidated.

44. He endorsed the Pakistani representative's comments on the question of experts. Experts from the under-developed countries were of necessity better acquainted with the problems affecting those regions and in a better position to recommend appropriate solutions.

45. The Philippine Government welcomed the development of a system of resident representatives, noting that four such representatives had been assigned to Asia and the Far East. His Government was particularly satisfied with the services of the technical assistance repre-

sentative who had been in the Philippines for almost a year.

46. With regard to decisions by the Board, he recalled that the Philippine delegation had expressed certain reservations in TAC about the advisability of entrusting the Chairman with powers amounting to a veto. Admittedly certain safeguards had been proposed; when joint agreement between the Chairman and a majority of the Board could not be reached, it was proposed to refer such issues to TAC. That would be an unwieldy procedure and he had therefore welcomed the assurances on the wide measure of agreement existing between the Chairman and the Board.

47. He reserved the right to comment at a later stage on the participation of certain organizations in the work of the Board referred to in paragraph 17 of the report.

48. He noted the comments in the report on the co-operation established between the Bank, the Fund and TAB. The number of experts available throughout the world to meet the requirements of the technical assistance programme and the various specialized agencies was limited. He therefore hoped that increased co-operation could be established between the Bank and the Fund, on the one hand, and the other organizations participating in the Board, on the other.

49. He regretted that the second part of the Cuban amendment (E/L.352) had been withdrawn, for he thought it would be helpful to any person appointed Chairman of the Board to know the duration of his term of office. Instead of an indefinite arrangement his delegation would prefer to have the Council lay down three years as the term of office of the Executive Chairman.

50. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) said that, as a member of the Working Party and of TAC, he knew the advantages of having a full-time Chairman of the Board. Such an arrangement would facilitate consultation on technical assistance projects, and enable governments to receive helpful guidance when first drawing up their plans. His delegation agreed with the advantages of the system as set forth in the Committee's report.

57. He congratulated Mr. Owen on his appointment as Executive Chairman. The new Chairman's competence and brilliant work were well known to the Council and the Uruguayan delegation was convinced that he would discharge his duties to the utmost satisfaction of the Council; in performing his functions he would not think merely in terms of cold figures but would consider the human element and give due weight to the natural desires of all men to raise their standard of living, to educate their children in an atmosphere of security and to develop the potentialities of their country.

52. While the Uruguayan delegation felt that Mr. Owen was an ideal choice for the position, it was compelled to comment on the principle of the proposed arrangements, but its remarks were in no way directed at the person of the Executive Chairman. As it had stated before, his delegation felt that the powers granted to the Chairman in paragraph (h) of the Committee's amendments to resolution 222 A (IX) (E/2238, annex I) were excessive. Uruguay was well

aware of the danger of concentrating excessive power in one person. Its experience had led it to revise its governmental organization and now instead of a single head of government, it had set up a Council of nine persons, each having an equal voice in the administration of the country.

53. He had no intention of imposing that system on the Council, but merely wished to expose the dangers of such a system: the powers vested in the Executive Chairman would amount to a veto. Criticism of that procedure had been raised in connexion with other United Nations organs and he saw no reason for extending such a manifestly unsatisfactory arrangement to others.

54. The Philippine representative, although feeling that certain safeguards against the abuse of those powers had been provided had also recognized the dangers and had suggested that the Executive Chairman's term of office should be limited. He (Mr. Rodriguez Fabregat) also felt that, while three years would be too short a term for a good chairman, they would be much too long for an unsatisfactory one.

55. In the Technical Assistance Committee he had stressed the view that the present powers of the Executive Chairman should not be changed but he also felt that the Council should be able to review that officer's responsibilities and duties as it deemed advisable, and for that reason he would support the first Cuban amendment. As he felt that the Executive Chairman's term of office should be limited, he regretted that the second Cuban amendment had been withdrawn. In conclusion, his Government would support most of the Committee's recommendations, but it would reserve its position on the question of the responsibilities and duties to be entrusted to the Executive Chairman.

56. Mr. McDougall (Food and Agriculture Organization), speaking for the specialized agencies interested in the technical assistance programme, said they welcomed the appointment of Mr. Owen as Executive Chairman of the Board. As the representative of the Secretary-General had said, the appointment had been made after consultation with the directors of the specialized agencies and it had their full support. The specialized agencies which had served on the Board warmly welcomed the arrangement for their association with Mr. Owen on the Board had been most satisfactory and there was no doubt that the same harmonious relations would continue.

57. Mr. ABDOH (Iran) said his Government endorsed the principles contained in the TAC amendment to Council resolution 222 (IX). The Programme had encountered certain obstacles under the existing procedures and his Government thought that those difficulties should be removed in the interest of better co-ordination. The Working Party and the Committee had been aware of the problem and he hoped that the solutions proposed would eliminate the difficulties. While he was aware that the specialized agencies were autonomous in certain respects, in carrying out the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance they were engaged in a joint venture with the United Nations and the purposes of the technical assistance programme could not be achieved unless effective co-operation was established between all the organizations

concerned. As the Committee's proposals were directed to that end, his delegation agreed in principle with the appointment of a full-time Chairman and supported the responsibilities and duties which the Committee proposed to attach to that post.

58. He understood the Uruguayan Government's misgivings about the broad powers vested in the Chairman, but he could not suggest a better solution and hoped that no irreconcilable differences would arise in the Board and that its work could be carried on in harmony and complete agreement.

59. Paragraph 12 of the report reflected the principles endorsed by the General Assembly and the Council. He welcomed the assurance that the Executive Chairman would not recommend the granting of assistance to projects which were not part of an integrated programme.

60. He hoped that the technical assistance programme would be able to give increased assistance to the under-developed countries and extended his best wishes to Mr. Owen for success in his new post. Merely as a matter of principle, however, he endorsed the Philippine representative's comments on the desirability of limiting the Chairman's term of office. He regretted that the second part of the Cuban amendment had been withdrawn; if a similar amendment were introduced his delegation would support it.

61. Mr. WOULBROUN (Belgium) said that his Government endorsed the proposed arrangements for the administrative reorganization of the Board. He reserved the right to comment at a later stage on the implementation of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. His Government maintained continuing interest in technical assistance which was an extremely important branch of United Nations activities.

62. While great progress had been made in implementing the programme, the time had come to strengthen the Board's authority and to ensure that the Chairman could devote his full time to the work.

63. His delegation wished to draw particular attention to certain important duties of the Executive Chairman. For instance, he should supervise the preparation of complete programmes for economic development, develop improved methods for recruiting experts and encourage the specialized agencies to adopt uniform procedures in such matters. The Belgian delegation entertained no misgivings on the broad powers of the Chairman for it felt that he must have necessary authority to ensure rapid and effective action by the Board.

64. As he saw no difference in substance between the Committee's proposal and the first Cuban amendment, he supported the Committee's text in preference to the Cuban draft which might give the impression that the Council did not have full confidence in the Executive Chairman.

65. In conclusion, he congratulated Mr. Georges-Picot on his appointment as Acting Assistant Secretary-General in Charge of the Department of Economic Affairs.

66. In reply to Mr. PEREZ CISNEROS (Cuba), the PRESIDENT drew attention to the Secretary-General's statement that the appointment of Mr. Owen as Executive Chairman of the Board would entail no additional financial burden on the United Nations budget. In those circumstances no statement on the financial implications of the Committee's proposal had been necessary.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.