



CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Confirmation of members of functional commissions of the Council	29
Agenda item 12:	
Non-governmental organizations: hearings and applications for hearings (<i>resumed from the 866th meeting</i>) . . .	29
Agenda item 3:	
World social situation (<i>resumed from the 868th meeting</i>)	29

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 Member States: Belgium, Colombia, Indonesia, Iran, Israel.

Observers from the following non-member States: Bulgaria, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary.

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, World Health Organization.

Confirmation of members of functional commissions of the Council

1. Referring to the confirmation of membership of the Council's functional commissions, the PRESIDENT said that the question was not included in the sessional agenda. There was no urgency about the matter, and in accordance with resolution 557 (XVIII), "organization and operation of the Council and its commissions", he would therefore propose that consideration of the question be deferred until the Council's resumed twentieth session.

It was so agreed.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Non-governmental organizations: hearings and applications for hearings (E/2775 and Add.1, E/2777) (*resumed from the 866th meeting*)

2. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela), Chairman of the Council Committee on Non-governmental Organizations, presented the Committee's report on applications for hear-

ings under rule 86 by organizations in category A consultative status (E/2777).

The report was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3

World social situation (E/2569, E/2747 and Add.1 and 2, E/2758, E/CN.3/179—E/CN.5/299, E/CN.5/301/Rev.1—ST/SOA/21) (*resumed from the 868th meeting*)

3. Mr. DIAZ ORDOÑEZ (Dominican Republic) said that he wished to associate his delegation with the congratulations expressed by previous speakers on the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* (E/CN.5/301/Rev.1—ST/SOA/21). It was a work which reflected the practical dynamism characteristic of the Council, one of the most progressive and least academical of United Nations organs.

4. In view of the expressed objectives of the *Survey* and of the fact that it devoted only ten pages of chapter XIII to the twenty-two countries of Latin America, he would take the opportunity of illustrating the loyalty of the Dominican Republic to the Council's recommendations and summarize his Government's efforts in the broad field of social welfare.

5. The close relationship between economic and social factors in any community was self-evident. The Dominican Government had begun by freeing the country of the national debt, stabilizing its currency at par with the United States dollar, and establishing a sound banking system. On that solid economic basis the Government was gradually introducing legislation in respect of benefits in the event of industrial accidents; Secretariats of State had been set up for both labour and social welfare, and the Trujillo Labour Code, with provisions on trade union rights, including the right to strike, established relations between capital and labour on an equitable basis.

6. The recommendations of United Nations organs had been integrated into Dominican legislation. There was in operation a progressive system of social insurance, covering old-age pensions, unemployment and sickness benefits, family allowances and burial grants. Child welfare had been organized on a scientific basis, and special juvenile courts had been set up. The housing problem had been tackled, and the poorer classes had benefited by the construction of many social welfare estates, where the man of slender means could become the owner of his home on easy terms. Moreover, a system of rent restriction served as a protection to tenants.

7. With regard to public health, the authorities had derived the maximum benefit from the limited technical

assistance received. A vast scheme for the construction of modern hospitals and homes of various kinds for workers and children had been embarked upon, and national campaigns were rapidly eliminating malaria and other diseases. Permanent schemes had been set up for meals for schoolchildren and free milk for poor families.

8. As part of the land reform plan, agricultural workers had received grants of land from the State and were also assisted by loans on favourable terms from the Agricultural and Industrial Bank. By the introduction of the minimum wage the National Labour Board guaranteed the Dominican worker a fair remuneration; there were in existence, moreover, many vocational training centres and clubs for workers' recreation. The recent launching of a nation-wide campaign for the total eradication of illiteracy was a further earnest of the Government's determination to improve social conditions.

9. His Government could justly claim that the Dominican Republic, fully conscious of its responsibilities in the field of social welfare, was following the United Nations recommendations in that field and was wholeheartedly engaged in the struggle for improved conditions of life for its population.

10. Mr. LAROQUE (France) thought that the discussion on the current item of the agenda had brought forth an extraordinary unity of view. It was to be hoped that the same degree of unanimity would be maintained right through the session.

11. The French delegation would like first of all to congratulate the experts on their *Report on International Definition and Measurement of Standards and Levels of Living* (E/CN. 3/179—E/CN. 5/299) and, in particular, the authors of the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development*. The difficulties recently encountered in France in the preparation of a pamphlet entitled *La France sociale* gave some idea of the obstacles which the authors of a similar survey covering most of the countries in the world must have had to surmount. The result was a remarkable example of what could be achieved through co-operation in such fields by the international organizations, and any criticisms that France might make with regard to certain shortcomings or particular arguments used were negligible in the face of the great merits of the *Survey* as a whole. The French delegation, like the United Kingdom delegation, felt that the essential object of the *Survey* was to bring out the general trends of social policy throughout the world on the strength of the most characteristic examples, and that object had been fully achieved.

12. Higher standards of living were only one aspect of social policy, which must also attempt to ensure social security and equality of opportunity. An existing level of living had no real significance for the individual or the family unless they could be sure that it would be maintained in the future. Similarly, equality of opportunity for all was important, since inequality amounted to injustice. That applied to all individuals everywhere, as the Director-General of the International Labour Office had very opportunely argued.

13. From that threefold viewpoint, it was desirable to stress the interdependence of all nations and the inter-

national effort which the situation called for. The *Survey* rightly emphasized that interdependence, as well as the problems, which went beyond the sphere of living standards. The chapter on education was in fact one of the best chapters in the *Survey*.

14. The debate had also made it clear that in the general view economic development should make for social progress. After all, whatever a few technocrats might think, production was not an end in itself; nor should economic progress be made a tool of national imperialism. It had sometimes been said that the international organizations treated social questions as poor relations, but the discussions in the Council were proof that they were now being given all the attention they deserved.

15. In the course of the discussion, stress had been laid on the necessity for ensuring both social democracy and the co-ordination of social policies at the national level. With regard to social democracy, speakers had been gratified to find that the *Survey* urged the necessity of arranging for the beneficiaries of social programmes to participate in the efforts made on their behalf. There was no doubt that social policy should start at the bottom, since individual effort was the fundamental basis for the efforts of all social workers throughout the world.

16. The most unqualified progress was that which had been achieved by the individual or collective effort of the beneficiaries, and in that connexion he shared the opinion of the representative of a large international trade union organization as to the function of the labour movement. It seemed to be generally agreed that all paternalism, whether exercised by Governments or by employers, should be done away with. Social welfare must be based on the volition of the beneficiaries; hence the importance of community development, which was designed to induce the people to put forth the effort required. In France there were many examples of collective effort, such as mutual benefit societies, trade unions, social insurance societies and co-operatives of various types. Similar tendencies were to be seen in the under-developed territories for which France was responsible. Everywhere, stress had been laid on educating the people to contribute to social schemes and to learn how to benefit by them. Recently, the French Minister of Labour and Social Security had stated that 16 per cent of the national income was re-distributed through the existing social institutions. To that must be added the re-distribution between metropolitan France and the overseas territories through the many institutions set up to promote the social and economic development of those territories.

17. Nevertheless, the concern for social democracy must never be allowed to obscure the need for integrating any action undertaken in that direction with the whole body of social measures taken at the national level. It was notoriously difficult to assess all the factors governing social policy if the combined efforts in the demographic, educational, economic, financial and psychological fields were to achieve a maximum degree of efficiency. Hence, such comprehensive undertakings must be directed by the central authorities. Social democracy had to be safeguarded: in other words, the people as a whole had to be allowed to take the initiative, and at the same time the efforts made had to be co-ordinated at the national level.

18. The problem had to be solved by each country in the light of its peculiar characteristics, and it would be asking for trouble to try to foist a common policy on all. In that respect, two vital stages had already been negotiated by the international organizations. First, the *Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation* (E/CN.5/267/Rev.1) had brought out the present social needs, and, secondly, the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* had gone into the ways and means employed to meet those needs. On that basis, the problem now was to give Governments at least some general guidance to enable them to draw up long-term social programmes in the light of conditions in their own countries. The international organizations could help Governments to achieve a synthesis, while they themselves should take account of the problems raised by such synthesis in preparing technical assistance programmes.

19. The French delegation fully supported the conclusions reached by the Netherlands representative at the 868th meeting. It was convinced that social progress must be the fruit of all-round collaboration—by individuals, local and national authorities and international organizations. Collaboration on that scale reflected a solidarity which was daily gaining in scope and self-awareness. However, while it might be true that economic and social advances increased the interdependence of men and nations, the same rate of progress was hardly being achieved on the psychological plane. There was not always a sufficiently deep sense of solidarity between communities even in one and the same country, let alone between the people of one country and those of other countries perhaps at the other end of the earth. Hence, changes in mental outlook and economic and social progress must go hand in hand, and the sense of fellow-feeling among men everywhere must be steadily strengthened. That was an educational task which called for unceasing effort on the part of the United Nations and the specialized agencies—the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in particular—and of all those working in the social field.

20. Mr. KUMYKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in spite of certain fundamental shortcomings, the documents submitted by the Secretariat on the world social situation were of value for the study of the social situation in a number of countries. He noted, however, that in some eighteen hundred odd pages of documentation very little attention had been given to social developments in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the People's Republic of China, the people's democracies of Europe and the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav representative had already mentioned that fact, which seemed to show the preconceived approach of the authors of the *Survey* and their unwillingness to face new facts and give them due publicity. It was therefore necessary to fill in the gaps in the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* and to give an account of social developments in the Soviet Union. The USSR Government followed social developments in other countries with much interest because they might be applicable to its own country, notwithstanding the difference of social

systems. International co-operation in this field could be extremely fruitful.

21. The Soviet Union Government's aim to raise cultural and material standards had been achieved through a constant rise in production, due to better techniques. He had listened with great interest to the statement by Mr. Morse, Director-General of the International Labour Office that one of the most important tasks of the present time was to overcome fear, whether it be the fear of technical innovations, of unemployment, of increased productivity or of competition. Mr. Morse had no doubt been referring to economically developed countries operating under a system of private enterprise. Such fears could not exist in the Soviet Union, where production was constantly increased, business cycles were unknown, and unemployment had long since disappeared. In 1954 the number of employed persons had risen to 47 million—an increase of fifteen and a half million since 1940—and real wages had increased by 74 per cent compared with 1940. The aim of the workers was to increase efficiency, and there was no room in the Soviet Union for industrial conflicts, since the means of production belonged to the people. Social insurance run by the State covered sickness, health and maternity benefits, old-age pensions and accident insurance, not to mention rest centres and the organization of holidays at low cost. Expenditure on those schemes had increased from 8.6 thousand million roubles in 1940 to 26.6 thousand million roubles in 1955.

22. There had also been a big drive for the improvement of housing and living conditions. Millions of cubic metres of dwelling space had been erected since the end of the war in the towns and other population centres of the country, and four and a half million housing units had been built in the rural areas. Encouragement had been given to people who wished to build their own houses through the grant of credits running from seven to ten years at an annual rate of 2 per cent. Moreover, administrations and enterprises were helping industrial and office workers by providing free transport and building materials.

23. He was surprised that in the many pages devoted to health questions only one phrase concerned the Soviet Union, a phrase dealing with the training of large numbers of *feldshers* and medical auxiliaries. He therefore felt it necessary to emphasize that every year showed an improvement in public health services in the Soviet Union. In 1955, expenditure on health services was 30.5 thousand million roubles, or 5½ per cent of the total budget. Soviet medical services were staffed by a large number of doctors, nurses and assistants, and the campaigns for the eradication of such diseases as malaria, typhus and typhoid fever had been highly successful. Moreover, there had been a threefold decrease in mortality, particularly in infant mortality, and the population was now increasing by more than three million a year. In that connexion, the Soviet Union delegation considered that United Nations activities in the field of public health were extremely important and that the World Health Organization (WHO) was doing useful work. In order to extend its share of international co-operation in the medical field the Soviet Union was joining WHO.

24. Particular attention was given in the Soviet Union to the care of children and mothers. Aid to mothers with large families or without breadwinners in 1955 amounted to 5 thousand million roubles. Already in 1940 two million children had been taken care of in permanent homes and a number of establishments functioning on a seasonal basis. Since then great progress had been made in that direction.

25. Great strides had been made in the field of education and in eliminating the legacy of illiteracy which the Soviet Union had inherited from the Tsarist regime. There was already universal compulsory seven-year education in the Soviet Union, and during the 1956-60 five-year plan there would be a change to ten-year free compulsory education. There were no fewer than 1,700,000 teachers in the Soviet Union at the present moment, and Premier Nehru of India had said how struck he had been by the general concern of both states and peoples in the Soviet Union for the welfare of children. It should be recalled that the Soviet Union delegation always spoke in favour of proposals to assist and protect children throughout the world. In its desire to broaden international aid to children in the under-developed countries the Soviet Union had decided to participate in the United Nations Children's Fund in 1955 by sending 2 million rubles' worth of foodstuffs, consumer goods, medical supplies and services, including medical personnel and personnel for children's institutions.

26. Great importance was also given to secondary and higher education in the Soviet Union, and the number of students in secondary and higher educational establishments had risen from 1,780,000 in 1940 to 3,522,000 in 1954. It was not, however, possible in such a brief statement to give all the details of measures taken for improving the standard of living.

27. He had listened with great interest to the United States representative when the latter had said that the best method of overcoming social problems lay in a mass participation of the people. In that connexion he wished to emphasize that social problems in the Soviet Union were treated with the widest participation of the people, because such a participation was of the very nature of the socialist State. Soviet democracy provided an opportunity for all men to show initiative, and the local Soviets elected by the people had a clear mandate to improve standards of living by means of their own budgets. The trade unions did much to improve welfare standards and had their own sanatoria, rest homes and cultural establishments. Many co-operative or voluntary organizations on a professional or craft basis also contributed to the improvement of living standards. Moreover, the All-Soviet Leninist Communist Federation of Youth, the Organization for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Information, the Red Cross Society and many other organizations all contributed their share in the social field.

28. He also felt it necessary to stress the tremendous successes achieved by the People's Republic of China in raising the material standards of the people in a short time. The transformation which had taken place in China was indeed of historical significance. Economic reconstruction had gone on at a fast pace, and real wages in industry had doubled between the years 1949 and 1954.

One tremendous achievement in the improvement of the life of the Chinese people had been the stabilization of currency circulation and commodity prices.

29. Large-scale measures were being taken to improve services for the cultural and living conditions of the people; social insurance had been introduced. A large number of sanatoria, rest homes, crèches, old people's homes and homes for the disabled had been built with money contributed by industrial enterprises and the social insurance funds. By the end of 1953 the number of hospital beds had been more than five times greater than before the liberation of the country. In education also, enormous successes had been achieved. In 1954, allocations for popular education had been 34 times greater than in 1936. More than 51,500,000 people were being educated in primary schools in 1954, and in addition an enormous number of peasants were being taught at evening schools. As early as 1953 the number of students in higher educational establishments had been 40 per cent higher, and in secondary schools 96 per cent higher, than the peak figure reached before the liberation of the country.

30. The methods used in the Chinese People's Republic for solving social problems and the successes obtained were undoubtedly worthy of the closest study. Attempts to play down those successes or distort the truth did not further the development of international co-operation.

31. The authors of the *Survey* had quite properly drawn attention to the difficult social conditions in many countries, and particularly in the under-developed countries, colonies and Trust Territories. The *Survey* said little about ways and means of solving social problems. The Soviet Union delegation considered that the greatest obstacle to improving the well-being of the peoples was the armaments race, and the *Survey*, in the last paragraph of chapter I, rightly emphasized what a heavy burden it was on the economies of the world. The *Survey* rightly expressed the hope that the utilization of solar and nuclear energy could transform the whole problem of social welfare if their vast potential sources of wealth were turned to peaceful ends. However, although the authors of the *Survey* had attempted to note the interrelation between the armaments race and the unsatisfactory social situation, they had not gone into the question sufficiently.

32. The Soviet Union delegation considered that the Council should correctly assess that abnormal situation, where, on the one hand, colossal sums were being devoured by armaments and squandered on war preparations, while, on the other hand, millions of men, women and children were suffering from privation, hunger and disease.

33. It was precisely by solving the question of the limitation of armaments that international co-operation could most effectively improve world social conditions. It should be recalled that the Soviet Union Government had taken many initiatives in that field, the last of which had been taken as recently as 10 May 1955, at the London meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Disarmament Commission. The implementation of the Soviet proposals would free the peoples of the world from a heavy

tax burden and would promote the release of resources for the improvement of standards of living and the supply of technical assistance throughout the world.

34. The USSR delegation considered that, as the world social situation was being discussed at the present session, the Council could now make recommendations for a radical improvement of the social situation.

35. The USSR delegation thought, in particular, that the Council should call on the Governments of the great Powers to take urgent steps to reach agreement on the limitation of armaments, so that the sums being spent on armaments might be turned to peaceful ends and to improving the well-being of the peoples and giving extensive assistance to the under-developed countries.

36. The USSR delegation also considered that the Council should appeal to States to make the necessary efforts to solve the urgent problems of improving the material well-being and cultural level of people, making extensive use of the initiative and practical co-operation of the widest strata of the population in this process.

37. The Council had as yet made little progress in working out measures for improving the social situation. However, it was in possession of a great many data which attested to the unsatisfactory state of the social situation throughout the world, which could be satisfactorily improved only by disarmament and international action. The Soviet Union delegation considered that the Council should devote much greater attention to social problems and to their solution from its 22nd session onwards. It therefore intended to introduce a draft resolution to that effect, which it hoped would receive the support of the Council.

38. Mr. Said HASAN (Pakistan) said that the experts responsible for the *Report on International Definition and Measurement of Standards and Levels of Living* had wisely refrained from determining the standards or norms of living, because such norms would have provided a shocking contrast in many countries with the actual level of living. In most countries of South-East Asia, the last century had shown practically no progress in the improvement of the level of living, and the only thing which could be measured was the unspeakable level of misery. The new sovereign Governments had inherited extremely poor conditions and were now desperately trying to improve them. The *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* did not, therefore, give a coherent or fair account of the endeavours made by those Governments, nor did it show the obstacles which those Governments were facing in their task.

39. At every stage of social development, the Governments of South-East Asia were forced by the shortage of available resources to choose between cruel alternatives. Scanty resources, heavy demands, and low savings forced them to resort to unorthodox methods of financing capital investment, which had inevitable social results. Moreover, a choice had to be made between investment for economic development and investment in social capital. In their anxiety to appear beneficent and modern, many of those Governments might decide to make large investments in social capital, while forgetting that significant programmes of social

welfare could not be sustained without economic development and increased production. The wise course would appear to be a deferment of social improvements until the economy had been substantially developed. That course of action had not, however, been deemed advisable by most Governments, and fairly ambitious social programmes were in progress, the extent of which was not sufficiently reflected in the *Survey*. Many difficult choices had, however, to be made even in the social field, and the *Survey* could have underlined the difficulty of choosing between such alternatives as the concentration of activity on primary education as against an effort to increase higher education, thereby ensuring that the machinery of government could function efficiently. The wisest course was to concentrate on impressive national schemes and divert people's minds from individual discomfort by spectacular national achievements. In the formulation of the Colombo Plan it had been recognized that something spectacular should be done to bring hope to the people and that such hope could only come through a concentration of effort on large national projects.

40. In spite of those difficulties, Pakistan had engaged in a very extensive social programme, varying from community development to domestic science. The village aid programme had originally been conceived as a social programme to improve living conditions in village communities, to beautify the countryside, and to bring some colour into the otherwise drab existence of the rural population, which constituted no less than 85 per cent of the total population of Pakistan. It had, however, soon been realized that it would be difficult to sustain such a programme without increasing rural incomes and raising levels of productivity. Nine institutes, each capable of training 150 village workers every year, were now in operation, and a further two institutes were soon to be started. As each worker looked after five villages, it would therefore be theoretically possible to supply enough village workers to cover the hundred thousand villages in Pakistan over a period of fourteen years. The scheme had aroused such enthusiasm and was being pressed so intensively that it would in practice be possible to achieve success in about ten years. In addition, two academies were training supervisors and development officers and giving welfare orientation to administrative officers, with the ultimate object of integrating welfare activity into the normal pattern of administrative duties. The old administrative concept, based solely on law and order, would therefore eventually be turned into administration for the welfare of the people. The Pakistan Government had recently appropriated no less than \$70 million for all those schemes under its 5-year plan. Administrative arrangements were proceeding apace, and there was even a danger that certain centres might be treated as show-places by certain foreign observers, while their real task was to achieve practical results in the social field.

41. In the field of health, the report of the Technical Assistance Board for 1954 (E/2714) showed that there was only one doctor for every 34,000 inhabitants in Pakistan. Great efforts were, however, being made to overcome this situation, and the number of medical colleges had increased from one in 1947 to seven in 1955.

Social prejudice had to be overcome to obtain a sufficient number of women doctors, but good progress had been made in that direction and one college was entirely for women students. A special grant of \$25 million had been provided for health services. In the new 5-year plan, the need to consolidate progress had been fully recognized, and there would be an intensive drive to improve the efficiency of hospitals and medical services, although expansion would take place only in order to make good obvious deficiencies.

42. In the field of education, Pakistan could now boast six universities, whereas it had had only two in 1947. There had also been a corresponding increase in the number of colleges, schools and polytechnic institutes. The Pakistan Government had also decided to concentrate on primary education and would shortly produce a new plan. Enormous sums had had to be spent on the rehabilitation of the 8 million refugees who had streamed into Pakistan at a time when the whole economy of the country had been disrupted by conditions immediately following the partition of the sub-continent. Although there were still about 100,000 squatters, and refugees kept on coming into the country, the immense work carried out in re-settling almost 8 million people should never be forgotten.

43. Perhaps the greatest social problem concerning Pakistan at the present time was the land tenure system, because it affected the well-being of the whole nation and the progress which could be made in agriculture. In East Pakistan the *zemindar* or landlord system had been abolished, and certain laws had been passed for the same purpose in West Pakistan.

44. Social development needed heavy investment and competed with economic development; the wise course was to concentrate on economic development, as increased production and incomes would facilitate social investment. In spite of all the difficulties encountered, the Pakistan Government had endeavoured to lighten the burden of the ordinary citizen and would continue to do so.

45. Dr. SUTTER (World Health Organization) said that he was very pleased to hear that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics wished to resume its participation in WHO. He would report the fact immediately to his Director-General, and he was certain that the Soviet Union contribution would be of great importance to the activities of the Organization and would contribute to its universal character.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.