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President: Sir Douglas COPLAND (Australia).

Présent:

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: Cuba, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Mexico.

Observers from the following non-member State: Federal Republic of Germany.

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

AGENDA ITEM 4

General review of the development and co-ordination of the economic, social and human rights programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole (*resumed from the 882nd meeting and concluded*)

REPORT OF THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE (E/2790)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to revert to its discussion of item 4 of the agenda, and drew attention to the Report of the Co-ordination Committee on that item (E/2790).

2. Mr. SCOTT FOX (United Kingdom) said that the debate on co-ordination at the present session had been an experiment and a successful one. The representatives of the specialized agencies had provided most valuable information, and they deserved the Council's thanks. Thanks to the experience thus gained, the debate at the twenty-second session might prove even more fruitful.

3. The procedure adopted in the Co-ordination Committee at the present session, by which the representatives of the specialized agencies had first been subjected to a fire of questions and had then replied virtually without further comment from the floor, was rather unduly formal, and it would be preferable next year to have a mutual exchange of views by question and answer, during which the representatives of the specialized agencies would also bring to the attention of the Council points which they would like governments to consider. He hoped that the specialized agencies on their side would think the new procedure worth-while and that, where possible, the executive heads themselves of the various agencies would on future occasions attend the debate.

4. It was to be hoped that the debates on co-ordination would become an outstanding feature of the Council's work, and provide an opportunity for reviewing the whole machinery of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and of gauging its efficiency. That aim could only be achieved if all those concerned came with the intention of making the fullest and frankest contribution possible. It would be most unfortunate if the specialized agencies got the impression that they were, so to speak, being put in the dock by government representatives, who necessarily tended to be not too well versed in the workings of the agencies, and might therefore ask irrelevant and sometimes inadvertently embarrassing questions. The agency representatives had replied frankly and patiently to the questions put to them. He did not wish to cast any reflection upon the course of the debate at the present session, but he felt that the possibility of the Co-ordination Committee holding closed meetings for at least part of its work at the twenty-second session would be worth considering, since that would encourage the uninhibited exchange of views which was essential if the debate was to yield really constructive results.

5. He also hoped that it would be possible in 1956 to discuss in somewhat more detail, under the agenda item in question, co-ordination of the work of the regional economic commissions with other international bodies, and the co-ordination of technical assistance activities. By then, delegations would have had time to study the findings of the Secretary-General's Survey Group.

6. In addition, the co-ordination debate ought to provide a useful opportunity for the Council to consider the work of its functional commissions, in relation to the general work programme and to the policy of concentration of effort approved by the Council in 1954. Accordingly, the United Kingdom delegation would be glad to consider any proposals concerning the functional commissions which the Secretary-General might wish to lay before

the Co-ordination Committee at future sessions, either on specific matters, or on the general question of the co-ordination of their work.

7. The effectiveness of co-ordination depended on the efficiency of the co-ordination machinery. The debates had shown that that machinery was in the main working satisfactorily, and that substantial progress in co-ordination had been achieved in the last few years. The Secretary-General had been right in saying that no major change was probably required. Nevertheless, it was to be hoped that the helpful suggestions made during the discussions would be followed up. For example, the assurance given by the representatives of a number of the specialized agencies that their organizations would endeavour to follow the example of the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and circulate their programmes to other agencies in advance was a most welcome one. In addition, the suggestion that co-ordination of action within national governments was to be regarded as being as important as co-ordination within the United Nations was one that he could fully endorse.

8. The Secretary-General had welcomed the suggestion of the United Kingdom delegation that the Council should, from time to time, refer specific problems to the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) for consideration. It was possible that his delegation would propose at the twenty-second session that two problems be referred to ACC: first, possible improvements in informing the public of the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the economic and social fields; and secondly, possible revision of the terms of reference of the commissions of the Council, and perhaps even of the Constitutions of the specialized agencies, with a view to eliminating overlapping. He realized, however, that the latter was a very delicate subject. In respect of overlapping, his delegation hoped that the Secretary-General would proceed as expeditiously as possible with the work of examining earlier resolutions of the Council that had become out of date. He was making no formal proposals on those matters at the present juncture, but simply mentioning them so that other delegations and the Secretariat might ponder them before the twenty-second session.

9. Little had been said in the debate on co-ordination about the annual reports of the specialized agencies. That had partly been because of the general desire to concentrate on general matters affecting the agencies as a whole, but partly also because the excellence of the reports left little room for individual comment. They had, however, been studied most carefully by governments, to whom they were of the greatest value.

10. While co-ordination was only a means to an end, and must not, as had been pointed out, be made a fetish, it did call for vigilance if the necessary efficiency was to be maintained.

11. He paid a tribute to the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee for his able conduct of the Committee's proceedings.

12. At the request of Mr. GHORBAL (Egypt), *it was agreed* that the resolutions submitted to the Council by

the Co-ordination Committee (E/2790, paragraph 7) should be put to the vote one by one.

Resolutions I.A and I.B were adopted unanimously, without comment.

13. Mr. GHORBAL (Egypt) proposed the addition of the following phrase to paragraph 4 of resolution II: "and to report to the Council at its twenty-second session on the outcome of those consultations".

14. Mr. de SEYNES (Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the Secretary-General had certainly intended to give the Council an account of the consultation with UNESCO, but the amendment proposed by the Egyptian representative made the situation clearer, and would enable the Secretary-General to report formally to the Council.

The Egyptian amendment was adopted unanimously.

Resolution II, as amended, was adopted by 16 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

The final resolution submitted by the Co-ordination Committee (terms of office of members of functional commissions meeting bi-annually) was adopted unanimously without comment.

15. The PRESIDENT remarked that there would be general satisfaction at the high degree of unanimity achieved in the Co-ordination Committee, due in large measure to the able manner in which its Chairman had conducted its affairs.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Financial implications of actions of the Council (E/2774 and Add.1, E/2792)

16. The PRESIDENT explained that the two documents on the financial implications of actions of the Council before the meeting (E/2774 and Add.1 and E/2792) had been submitted for information only; the Secretary-General would prepare the appropriate documentation for the General Assembly and the Fifth Committee.

17. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) observed that, although the financial implications of the Council's actions were a standing item on the Council's agenda, they had in the past been treated rather perfunctorily. At the present session, however, the item had gained added meaning from the statement by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs (E/2791), which had given the Co-ordination Committee an opportunity of discussing the substance of the matter. He thought that was the right way to handle the subject and trusted that similar statements from the Secretary-General, which could then be referred to the Co-ordination Committee, would also be presented in future years. In that way, the Council would be able effectively to face up to its financial responsibilities.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Arrangements regarding the report of the Council to the General Assembly (E/L.668)

18. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the note submitted by the Secretary-General (E/L.668), and asked

whether it was the wish of the Council that the procedure outlined in paragraph 6 thereof should be followed, as in previous years.

It was so agreed.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

19. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus completed its agenda. The time had come for him, both on his own behalf and on the Council's, to thank the Vice-Presidents and the Chairmen of the several committees and functional commissions as well as the representatives of the specialized agencies, who had all co-operated wholeheartedly in the Council's work. He also wished to convey his special gratitude to the Secretary-General, who, in spite of his many other preoccupations, had found time to attend meetings of the Council and give it his highly expert advice on many matters. His personal thanks were also due to all members of the Secretariat who had ably assisted the Council in its work.

20. Commenting on the results of the present session and the atmosphere in which it had been held, he remarked that the past year had seen a striking improvement in the world's political and economic climate. The historic Conference of Heads of Government, which had taken place in the same building, had inevitably made its influence felt on the Council's deliberations. It was significant, too, that the Council's session in the Palais des Nations would be followed immediately by the first world conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

21. A noticeable desire had been apparent in the Council's proceedings to avoid unnecessary and unhelpful controversy and to take all possible practical steps towards the achievements of the aims of the Council and of the United Nations as a whole: higher standards of living and of social welfare, full employment and economic development. He was not suggesting that unanimity had been achieved on all the topics discussed, but such differences as there had been had turned on matters of timing and strategy, rather than on basic objectives as had so often, unfortunately, been the case in the past. There had consequently been more unanimity in the adoption of resolutions than at any previous session. It might be that some of those resolutions did not go so far as some members and some governments might wish, but, made up as it was of representatives of sovereign States, the most fruitful procedure for the Council was to arrive at the widest possible area of agreement. The Council was bound by its very nature to progress more slowly than the more ardent advocates of social reform would like.

22. At the present session, a new item had appeared on the agenda for the first time: the world social situation. That in itself had been a source of great satisfaction to many delegations. The discussion of the comprehensive report on that subject prepared by the United Nations Secretariat in collaboration with the International Labour Office, the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNESCO and the World Health Organization (E/CN.5/301/Rev.1) had testified to the remarkable

growth of a sense of social responsibility among the peoples and nations of the entire world. The world social situation was characterized by a number of different social structures. The important thing was to ensure that each system was allowed to develop in peace, contending for men's souls by its own good works. Naturally, in that sphere the Council had largely had to grapple with the intangibles of human aspirations. The Council's task was to translate those intangibles into realities in the shape of self-determination, wider respect for human rights, a broader conception of the status of women, new life and new prospects for stateless refugees—themselves the product of man's less noble passions—and better opportunities in every direction for the world's children.

23. There was, of course, much scope for disagreement in the advance towards those objectives, but the Council had shown its awareness of the challenge they threw out to the growing social conscience of a world that was coming to reject the idea of strife as the normal state of international relations. The time was approaching when it would be possible to discard such frightening concepts as the cold war and the iron curtain, and to replace them by the nobler and bolder concepts of social progress and freedom of human intercourse. That time might still be a long way off, but the Council must not allow itself to be deterred by the many difficulties in the way of its attainment. It should take as its motto the Latin tag: *Nil mortalibus ardui est.*

24. In its deliberations on the world economic situation the Council had been faced with more tangible problems, and had, perhaps, made even greater progress than in its discussions on the world social situation. Now, more than ever before, the nations could look forward to a continually expanding world economy without the fear of depression and instability that had constantly haunted them between the two world wars and in the years immediately following the Second World War. Since the latter, economic depression had threatened on two occasions, but had materialized on neither. The inevitable rapid increase in the population of the world and the continually rising demand for social progress and material goods which that increase would bring in its train were sufficient guarantee that the world economy would continue to expand. Refusal to face up to the challenge presented by those circumstances would be a confession of incompetence and an act of despair.

25. The prospects for expansion were indeed brighter, as the discussions, and especially those on plans for financing economic development, had shown. The establishment and activity of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund, which would shortly be supplemented by a new agency—the International Finance Corporation—not to mention the immediate post-war activities of agencies such as the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency, which had in effect been an instrument of economic development, all gave grounds for hope for the future. That was not to say that there were no differences about, for instance, the exact form which aid in the development of the under-developed

countries should take. It might make for clearer thinking on the subject if people ceased to conceive of that aid as being concentrated in any one single fund, or plan, applicable to all the under-developed countries, which, in fact, varied widely in their degree of development and hence in the extent and nature of the assistance they required. He would also venture to suggest that the administration of such a fund would be of far greater importance than the actual size of its immediate capital resources.

26. Commodity trade problems had not bulked so large at the present session. The difficulties the world was experiencing in that field sprang mostly, he thought, from the fact that most nations were still hesitant about seizing the opportunities offered by an expanding world economy. Nevertheless, the basis for such expansion was being laid by the United Nations family, not least in the magnificent operations of the technical assistance programmes. The significance of those programmes which was, perhaps, not fully realized even by those most closely connected with them, was twofold. In the first place, the programmes constituted a great and growing experiment in international co-operation linking all the participating countries on a basis of equality. In the second place, they provided not only much needed technical help, but also a kind of forum for the discussion of the problems of State administration, where the advanced and the under-developed countries could again meet as equals. The financial outlay might be small, but the moral and material yield was large.

27. In considering economic and social progress it should not be forgotten that the two were complementary. Economic progress created the conditions for social progress, while at the same time the latter stimulated the demand for goods of all kinds, and hence for further economic advance. That was the true foundation for an expanding world economy and for that international co-operation through which the United Nations could play its part in bringing new light to the eyes and fresh hopes to the hearts of men and women everywhere.

28. Earlier in the meeting, he had listened with great interest to the comments of the United Kingdom representative on co-ordination. In its new form, that topic had appeared on the Council's agenda for the first time. The debate initiated by the Secretary-General had reached a very high standard, and had provided an opportunity for seeing how far co-ordination had been achieved, and duplication of effort avoided, in the activities of the United Nations family as a whole. He felt, however, that the Council's aim of associating the specialized agencies more closely with its discussion of the problem had been only partially realized. In spite of the good will of the specialized agencies, the new arrangement did not seem to have given the Council opportunity enough of hearing statements on their activities which would enable those activities to be reviewed in relation to the Council's work. He wished again to emphasize that, although the specialized agencies were indisputably autonomous bodies responsible in the final analysis to the governments of their members, it was essential, though it would not be easy, to integrate their work with that of the United Nations as a whole. The solution of the problem of co-ordination was one of

the Council's special responsibilities, and he hoped that in the light of the discussions at the present session it would be possible to devise new methods of improving co-ordination.

29. Referring to the discussions on the work of the regional economic commissions, he thought that the Council could now feel that they were co-operating satisfactorily, not only with one another, but also in the general activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

30. Recalling the moving and eloquent appeal made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, he expressed the hope that Governments would heed that appeal, and so make it possible for the first year's target of \$4,200,000 for the United Nations Refugee Fund, of which only half had so far been subscribed, to be reached in 1955.

31. He recalled that the Council at its last session had admitted the World Veterans Federation to consultative status in Category A, on which occasion the Federation's Honorary President, Mr. Vincent Auriol, formerly President of the French Republic, had addressed the Council. He welcomed that development.

32. In conclusion, to complement the Australian adage which he had cited in his opening statement at the first meeting of the session (864th meeting, paragraph 4), he commended to the Council the sentiments expressed in an old ballad of the pioneers of the Australian outback, in which they had sung of their determination to pursue fortune doggedly but cheerfully, no matter how far off it might appear to be.

33. Mr. VIRA (India) said that the present session would be memorable in the history of the Council as the most harmonious and amicable session that it had ever held. On behalf of the Commonwealth—the United Kingdom, Australia, Pakistan and India—he thanked the President for the courtesy and dispatch with which he had conducted the Council's business, and wished him a pleasant homecoming after his arduous labours. He wanted also to thank those members of the Secretariat who had so efficiently assisted the Council in the discharge of its duties.

34. Mr. BAKER (United States of America) commented on the vastly different spirit which had inspired the present session by contrast with that of two years previously. In that new spirit of constructive co-operation lay hope for the future of mankind. The Council had met under the shadow of great events which might well mark a turning-point in human history. Some members might for that reason have felt that they had been attending a "forgotten conference", but all could rejoice in the knowledge that they had not failed to carry on their discussions in the same spirit as that which had marked the recent historic Conference of Heads of Government.

35. Finally, he wished to say how impressed his delegation had been by the way in which the President, the other officers of the Council and the Secretariat had discharged their duties.

36. Mr. ENGEN (Norway) associated himself with the sentiments expressed by the two previous speakers.

37. Mr. ALFONZO-RAVARD (Venezuela) congratulated the President on the remarkable way in which he had conducted the business of the Council, and thanked him for the praise he had bestowed upon the Head of the Venezuelan delegation in his capacity of Chairman of the Social Committee.

38. He also expressed his delegation's appreciation of the ability of the Chairman of the Economic Committee, and of the collaboration of the Secretariat in the work of the Council.

39. There was every reason to be gratified at the results achieved by the Council at the present session, results which were the outcome of the spirit of co-operation shown by all delegations. It was to be hoped that that spirit would be nurtured and strengthened, so that the Council could do really constructive work in the economic and social fields.

40. Mr. BRILEJ (Yugoslavia) associated himself with the tributes paid to the President. The Council was faced with great responsibilities at the present fateful juncture in world affairs, and no efforts should be spared to find a common solution to all the problems with which it had to deal.

41. Mr. HSIA (China), Mr. GHORBAL (Egypt) and Mr. MENEMENCIOLU (Turkey) paid warm tributes to the President, and expressed their cordial thanks to the Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the Committees and the Secretariat.

42. Mr. STIKKER (Netherlands) wished to associate himself with those tributes and thanks. The President's able guidance and the new spirit of international co-operation had made it possible for the Council to do much constructive work.

43. Mr. KUMYKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the remarks of previous speakers left him with little to say. An atmosphere of co-operation had illuminated the session, and on the whole positive results had been achieved, reflecting the general relaxation of international tension. He hoped that the Council, in its future work, would be able to make still greater contributions to the strengthening of peace and to the promotion of the welfare of all the peoples of the world.

44. Mr. BORIS (France) said that all members of the Council would remember the session as one at which the atmosphere of their deliberations had matched that of the City of Geneva, during that memorable summer. The personality of the President would be associated with that memory, since he had been the personification of good will, understanding and trust; in brief, of the spirit of collaboration, for which the French delegation was deeply grateful to him.

45. It was also grateful to the two Vice-Presidents, who had presided with authority over the discussions of the Social Committee and the Economic Committee respectively. And he must not forget the Secretariat, whose competence and devotion had facilitated the Council's work.

46. Mr. NOSEK (Czechoslovakia) said that the present had seen more mutual understanding, constructive criticism and co-operative spirit for the solution of

difficult problems than any previous session of the Council. Compromise through mutual concession, and a striving to arrive at unanimous decisions had been an outstanding, and most welcome, feature. It augured well for the settlement of problems still to be solved.

47. Still further efforts were required to complete the great tasks for the benefit of mankind that Members of the United Nations had shouldered when signing the Charter. The Conference of Heads of Government had given the work of the Council special importance, and made it incumbent upon its members to put forth still greater endeavours to promote international co-operation and to relieve international tension, aims which were fully in accordance with the foreign policy of his country, which would always be ready to help towards their achievement.

48. Mr. TRUJILLO (Ecuador) recalled that he had had the privilege of proposing Sir Douglas Copland for election to the Presidency of the Council, on which occasion he had said that Sir Douglas's personality and experience naturally fitted him for the office. Previous speakers had already shown that the choice had been a happy one, and, on behalf of his delegation and that of Argentina, he wished warmly to associate himself with the tributes paid to the President on the performance of his difficult duties. He was also very pleased with the atmosphere of the whole session, which was a reflection of a happy change in international relations.

49. As the Yugoslav representative had said, the time had come to draw up a balance sheet of the Council's work. Although it might be said that the Council had at first tended rather to disperse its efforts, it had quickly turned to more and more practical work and, as a result of co-ordination with the specialized agencies, was now achieving results which, it was to be hoped, would prove more and more effective.

50. Men of good will must work to create a new spirit, and so enable the foundations of peaceful co-operation between the peoples to be laid.

51. He would also like, on behalf of his own and the Argentine delegations, to thank the Chairmen of the Social Committee, the Economic Committee and the Co-ordination Committee, and, finally, the Secretariat, which had spared no effort to aid the Council in its work.

52. Mr. d'HARTOY (Dominican Republic) said that it went without saying, but it was even better to say it, that the Dominican delegation whole-heartedly supported the well-deserved tributes paid to the President by preceding speakers. He (Mr. d'Hartoy) had been visiting that Palace of Hope for twenty years, but had never before seen such a courteous school of pragmatism, a school which had been able to join universal realities with the verse of a great and courageous country, which he was happy to greet in the person of the President.

53. The PRESIDENT expressed his most sincere thanks for the generous tributes paid to him, and, on behalf of the Vice-Presidents, the Chairmen of the Committees and the Secretariat, for the kind remarks addressed to them also. For his part, he had received most constructive help from all delegations, and he thanked them for their courtesy and patience.

54. He had attended his first international conference, under the auspices of the League of Nations, in 1933. He had gone away from it depressed to the point of despair by gloomy forebodings of the future, which had been only too fully justified. Very different was his feeling at the end of the present session of the Council. Never in the lifetime of those present had the prospects

of the world advancing along the road which it ought to follow been so bright.

55. He declared the twentieth session of the Council adjourned.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.