



CONTENTS

	Page
Consideration of the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Council (E/2352/Rev.1 and Add.1, E/2404, E/2412 and E/L.498) (concluded)	197
Admission to Headquarters of representatives of non-governmental organizations	200
Confirmation of members of functional commissions of the Council (E/2385/Add.2)	201
Financial implications of actions of the Council (E/2389 and Add.1 & 2)	201
Non-governmental organizations: (a) applications and re-applications for consultative status: report of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/2411 and E/L.506) (concluded)	201
Closure of the fifteenth session	201

President: Mr. Raymond SCHEYVEN (Belgium).

Present:

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, China, Cuba, Egypt, France, India, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

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

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization.

Consideration of the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Council (E/2352/Rev.1 and Add.1, E/2404, E/2412 and E/L.498) (concluded)

[Agenda item 29]

1. Mr. LOPEZ (Philippines) pointed out that under rule 10 of the rules of procedure any decision by the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations not to grant a request submitted by a non-governmental organization that an item be placed on the provisional agenda of the Council should be considered final.

2. That being so, it did not appear that the Council could reverse the Committee's decision. A compromise solution seemed possible, however, along the lines suggested by the Argentine representative at the 703rd meeting of the Council. The item proposed by the World Federation of Trade Unions could be studied when item 9 of the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session¹ was considered. It was quite natural that reference should be made to the improvement and ex-

¹ Programme of concerted practical action in the social field of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

tension of social security in connexion with a programme of concerted practical action in the social field.

3. Thus the Council would simply accept the Committee's decision but it would be understood that the WFTU, or any other competent body, could raise the question of social security and a progressive social policy in general under item 9. The Philippine delegation hoped that that proposal would be satisfactory and would meet with general approval.

4. Mr. BRACCO (Uruguay) withdrew his previous proposal and supported that just submitted by the Philippine representative.

5. Mr. GORSE (France) thought that under rule 10 of the rules of procedure and in view of the debate on that rule at the tenth session, the Council could not reverse the Committee's decisions in the case of a request for the inclusion of an item in the agenda. He pointed out that the Committee had acted in full knowledge of the facts. The documentation furnished by the WFTU had arrived very late and seemed inadequate; rule 10, paragraph 2 (a) stipulated that there must be adequate documentation.

6. His delegation would however accept the compromise solution proposed by the Argentine and Philippine representatives and hoped that the Council could quickly reach a decision.

7. Mr. BIRECKI (Poland) was glad to note the new direction the discussion was taking; the Council was seeking a practical solution to the problem before it. The argument based on the positions taken by delegations in the Committee was inadmissible: representatives had frequently been known to propose compromise solutions after having adopted a seemingly inflexible attitude at the outset. There was therefore nothing to prevent the Council accepting a new suggestion.

8. The question raised by the WFTU was of undeniable importance and it would appear logical to discuss it in connexion with the programme of concerted practical action in the social field. The Polish delegation therefore proposed that the title of item 9 of the provisional agenda should be amended by the addition of the following sub-item: "(a) Measures to be taken for the application of a progressive social policy throughout the world, particularly for the defence, improvement and extension of social security".

9. Mr. OVERTON (United Kingdom) wished to defend the Committee's action in deciding that consideration of the WFTU's request should be deferred. It was solely a matter of documentation; the Committee had quite rightly considered the documentation inadequate and had requested the WFTU to supplement it. Everyone agreed on the importance of the application of a progressive social policy throughout the world; though the possibilities of fruitful action on the international plane were limited, since most aspects of social policy were essentially a matter of domestic jurisdiction for governments.

10. However that might be, the Committee had decided to defer consideration of the WFTU's request to the next session and, as the Philippine representative had pointed out, that decision was final. There was no need, however, to adhere too strictly to the letter of the law since the situation had now changed; the Council was seized of some specific proposals tabled by delegations and must decide upon them. Two questions arose: whether the Council wished to discuss measures to be taken for the application of a progressive social policy throughout the world at its sixteenth session and, if so, what procedure it should follow to arrange for that discussion. The delegations were apparently unanimous in considering that the problem was linked with item 9 of the provisional agenda, which had already been accepted. There remained the question of procedure. Two considerations should be borne in mind: questions of a similar nature should be grouped together and duplication of discussion must be avoided. In the circumstances, the best course would be to agree that item 9 covered social questions as a whole and that when considering it the Council would of necessity have to take into account the opinion expressed by the WFTU, whose communication (E/C.2/R.17) really amounted to a criticism of United Nations action in the social field. There was no reason to make specific mention of it in the title of item 9, as the representative of Poland had proposed; it was understood that the question would be considered within the framework of the general debate on social affairs and that the WFTU communication was an integral part of the relevant documentation.

11. Mr. MUÑOZ (Argentina) did not think that rule 10 of the rules of procedure had been correctly interpreted by the representative of the Philippines. In his view, non-governmental organizations could not appeal against the Committee's decision but there was nothing to prevent the Council from reversing it. That, at any rate, was the correct sense of the Spanish text of rule 10; the English version might perhaps lend itself to the interpretation placed upon it by the Philippines. It would be useful to ask for a legal opinion on the subject.

12. In any case, he agreed with the United Kingdom, France and Uruguay that the question raised by the WFTU was connected with the question appearing in item 9 of the provisional agenda; his delegation would therefore support the proposal submitted by the Philippine delegation.

13. Mr. MATES (Yugoslavia) hoped that the Council would be able to agree on a compromise formula.

14. He agreed with the representative of Argentina on the interpretation of rule 10 of the rules of procedure: there was nothing to prevent the Council from reversing the Committee's decisions. The Council was responsible for drawing up its own agenda and was free to choose the items to be included on it; every delegation was competent to submit proposals on the subject. Rule 10 simply prohibited non-governmental organizations from appealing against the decisions of the Committee. The Council itself was not legally bound, especially since it discussed the reports of the Committee and consequently had full authority in the matter. The Yugoslav delegation had no objection to the Secretariat's being asked for an opinion on the subject but the text of rule 10 seemed to him so clear as to make such a step unnecessary.

15. The Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had considered the documentation sub-

mitted by the WFTU incomplete; he shared that opinion. The documents submitted were not adequate to justify the inclusion of the item on the agenda. The matter took on a different complexion if it were considered that the study of the problem raised came within the framework of item 9: the communication from the WFTU would in that case merely be one of the relevant documents and there would be no objection to its discussion by the Council. The Yugoslav delegation would therefore accept the compromise solution proposed by the Philippines, which seemed the best possible.

16. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) asked the USSR and Polish delegations to show a spirit of conciliation and to accept the proposal put forward by the Philippine representative without insisting that the proposed item should be included as a sub-item of item 9. The present title of that item would give the Council all the requisite latitude.

17. His interpretation of rule 10 was the same as that of the Philippine representative and he thought that the Legal Department would confirm that interpretation.

18. Mr. EL-TANAMLI (Egypt) said that his delegation agreed with the Argentinian and Yugoslav delegations on the interpretation of rule 10.

19. Mr. ARUTIUNIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) emphasized the importance of a correct interpretation of rule 10 for future relations between the Council and the Committee. In the opinion of his delegation, the text should be taken to mean simply that non-governmental organizations could not appeal against decisions by the Committee; that was all that it said. Moreover, the Committee was only a subsidiary body of the Council and it would be unusual for an inferior body to have power to bind a superior. All the Committee's decisions without exception were open to amendment by the Council. If representatives persisted in their desire to make the Council subject to the dictates of the Committee, his delegation would call for the discontinuance of that advisory body.

20. He was glad to see the favourable course the discussion on the agenda was taking. He regretted that the delegations had not all displayed in the Committee the conciliatory spirit they had just shown in the Council; many difficulties and delays could have been avoided.

21. His delegation agreed that the item proposed by the WFTU should be considered in connexion with item 9 of the agenda. Since several representatives objected to its inclusion as a separate sub-item, his delegation proposed that the title given in the document submitted by the WFTU should simply be added to the annotation of item 9.

22. The PRESIDENT noted the new compromise proposal submitted by the USSR.

23. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) objected to the USSR representative's interpretation of rule 10. He had been Chairman of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations when rule 10 had been drawn up and felt he could say that the USSR's opinion was contrary to the intention of the rule.

24. His delegation supported the compromise proposal submitted by the Philippines and on the understanding that only the symbol of the WFTU document should be included in the list of documents relating to item 9 of the provisional agenda.

25. Mr. BRACCO (Uruguay) said that his delegation interpreted rule 10 in the same way as the

Argentine, Yugoslav and Egyptian delegations and supported the suggestion just made by the United States representative.

26. Mr. OVERTON (United Kingdom) agreed with the Yugoslav representative that any delegation was entitled to request the Council to include an item in its agenda.

27. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the Council had two compromise proposals before it, one submitted by the USSR and the other submitted by the Philippines, which was supported by a number of delegations. It would be preferable for the Council to have to vote on one proposal only.

28. Mr. BIRECKI (Poland) preferred the solution proposed by the USSR. It was not enough to give the symbol of the WFTU document; a brief description of the item must also be given. His delegation hoped that members of the Council would recognize that that would be both logical and useful.

29. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the USSR proposal, which was supported by the representative of Poland.

The proposal was rejected by 11 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.

30. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the Philippine proposal, which was supported by the delegations of Uruguay, Belgium, Egypt, the United States and Yugoslavia.

31. Mr. ARUTIUNIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that before casting his vote, he would like to know the exact title of the item as it would appear in the agenda.

32. The PRESIDENT said that the title would remain unchanged, but that after the annotation of item 9, as given in E/L.498, the symbol of the document containing the communication from the World Federation of Trade Unions (E/C.2/R.17) would be given in brackets.

33. Mr. ARUTIUNIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that the name of the organization from which the communication had been received should be given after the description of item 9. The words "document E/C.2/R.17, submitted by the World Federation of Trade Unions" could, for example, be added at the end of the existing text.

34. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) pointed out that the voting had begun and that, under rule 63 of the rules of procedure, no representative might interrupt the voting except on a point of order connected with the actual conduct of the voting.

35. Mr. BRACCO (Uruguay) supported the USSR representative's proposal.

36. Mr. ARUTIUNIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was astonished at the United States representative's intervention, which seemed to him to be uncalled for. His point of order, the purpose of which was to obtain information on the text put to the vote, was perfectly in order. Surely all delegations were entitled to ask for information before casting their vote.

37. The PRESIDENT said that the title of item 9 would remain unchanged and that the symbol of the document containing the WFTU communication would be given in brackets.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

38. Mr. ARUTIUNIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regretted that he had been unable to take part in the vote, since he had not known to which

symbol reference has been made. He thought that the procedure borrowed had not been very satisfactory; the title of the document should have been stated, namely, "Measures to be taken for the application of a progressive social policy throughout the world, particularly for the defence, improvement and extension of social security". The point at issue would then have been clear, and delegations could have voted in full knowledge of the facts.

39. Mr. NUÑEZ PORTUONDO (Cuba) pointed out that a vote had been taken and that it was for the President to announce the result.

40. The PRESIDENT read out the symbol and title of the document containing the communication from the World Federation of Trade Unions, (E/C.2/R.17), dated 14 April 1953. The symbol of that document would be given in brackets after the annotation of item 9 as given in document E/L.498.

41. He thought he had given all the information required and hoped that the Council could now proceed to a vote in the usual way.

The Philippine proposal, as amended during the discussion, was adopted by 16 votes.

42. Mr. ARUTIUNIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he had not taken part in the vote for the reasons he had already stated.

43. Mr. BIRECKI (Poland) said that he had never heard a delegation object to a request for information about a text put to the vote, even if made during the vote. The United States representative's intervention had confused the discussion. He wondered whether the Council had voted merely to mention a symbol or to include the actual title of the memorandum by the World Federation of Trade Unions in the agenda.

44. The PRESIDENT thanked the Chairman of the NGO Committee for the information he had given the Council in presenting that Committee's report.

45. Now that it had considered the provisional agenda for its sixteenth session, all that remained for the Council to do, in accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure, was to consider the grouping of related items and fix the approximate dates at which the consideration of such groups of items would begin. The Secretariat would prepare a document for that purpose. The French and United Kingdom delegations, which had asked him some questions on the subject, would receive the information they had requested in due course.

46. Mr. LOPEZ (Philippines) apologized for reverting to the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/2412) on agenda items proposed by non-governmental organizations.

47. He wondered what documents would be available to the Council at its sixteenth session for the consideration of the very important item proposed by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions entitled "Reconversion after the rearmament period" (E/C.2/R.16). His delegation had voted in favour of including that item and did not object to its being considered in connexion with item 2 of the agenda: full employment. It had, however, a few reservations to make.

48. In considering the problem of reconversion at the same time as that of full employment, the Council ran the risk of paying undue attention to the labour difficulties which would confront the industrialized countries that bore the main burden of rearmament. The effects

of any reduction in armaments expenditure would, however, make themselves felt throughout the world. It could be assumed, for example, that for the under-developed countries there would be a reduction in the demand for raw materials. He hoped, therefore, that in preparing documents on the item the Secretariat would have regard to the possible repercussions of reconversion on the economy of under-developed countries.

49. Any detailed discussion of the problem of reconversion would inevitably lead to the consideration of factors other than full employment, such as the development of the under-developed countries and technical assistance. The President of the United States had recently referred to the possibility of using savings resulting from a contraction of the armaments programme to increase the funds available for technical assistance to the under-developed countries. It would therefore be advisable for documents on the problem of reconversion after the rearmament period to deal with the questions he had just mentioned.

50. Mr. BLOUGH (Secretariat) pointed out that the Secretariat had not been asked to prepare any documents on the question of reconversion after the rearmament period. No arrangements had been made for that and the Council must not expect to receive such documents for its sixteenth session.

Admission to Headquarters of representatives of non-governmental organizations

51. The PRESIDENT recalled the hope expressed in connexion with item 34 of the agenda by the delegations of the Soviet Union and Poland that he would be in a position to make an additional statement, before the close of the session, regarding access to Headquarters of representatives of non-governmental organizations enjoying consultative status (686th and 687th meetings). He regretted that all he could report was that he had duly communicated to the Secretary-General the gist of the statements made in the course of the debate by the representatives of the Soviet Union and Poland.

52. The Council now had before it a formal motion by the Polish delegation to include the question, which had constituted item 34, in the agenda of the sixteenth session. He considered that proposal justified and, if there was no objection, he thought that the item should be carried over.

53. Mr. BIRECKI (Poland) thought that the President's suggestion fulfilled both the logical and legal requirements which the present situation should suggest to the Council. It should be remembered that the Council had requested adjournment of the debate on the item for the sole purpose of promoting a rapid and satisfactory settlement of the difficulty which had arisen between the Government of the host country and the United Nations.

54. He deeply regretted that the United States Government had not proceeded with greater zeal in the matter. Two duly accredited representatives of non-governmental organizations had been prevented from taking part in work to which they might have made a very useful contribution.

55. Despite the easing of tension, which was a matter for gratification, it was undeniable that the Council's authority had been flouted despite the expressed provisions of the Charter, the Headquarters Agreement and the Council's own decisions.

56. He asked, in that connexion, that all the documentation on the question, including the resolution adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the failure to admit the representative of the Women's International Democratic Federation, the Legal Department's opinion and the relevant summary records of the current session, should be submitted to the Council at its sixteenth session. He hoped that a final settlement would be reached as soon as possible, so that the Council should not have to reopen debate on that vexatious question at every session.

57. Mr. MUÑOZ (Argentina) regretted that the Council had been unable to take a decision on the question of access to Headquarters of representatives of non-governmental organizations before the close of the current session. In the circumstances, there could be no objection to including the item in the agenda of the sixteenth session.

58. The Argentine delegation suggested that the agenda item should be worded as follows: "Report by the Secretary-General on the negotiations entered into with the Government of the United States concerning the question of access to United Nations Headquarters of representatives of non-governmental organizations."

59. Mr. ARUTIUNIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) apologized for taking the floor just as the Council was preparing to take a vote. He felt that it was less important to indicate that the Council wished to be informed of the negotiations, than to make it clear that the Council wanted positive results to be achieved. As the negotiations under way had not borne fruit before the close of the current session, the Council should ask the Secretary-General to take steps to speed them up.

60. He therefore suggested to the Argentine delegation that the wording of the agenda item be amended to read: "Report of the Secretary-General on the results of the negotiations entered into . . ."

61. Mr. MUÑOZ (Argentina) did not believe that the addition of the words suggested by the USSR representative could alter the ultimate effect of the title he had put forward. It might even be argued that it would defeat the USSR delegation's purpose. The broader wording proposed by the Argentine delegation could not be subject to a restrictive interpretation, whereas the amended wording might imply that the Council wished to discuss the matter only if the Secretary-General reported concrete results.

62. In any event, the Argentine delegation was prepared to accept the amended wording, on the understanding that the Council would then consider the problem only if it deemed it useful to do so.

63. Mr. JUNG (India) saw no objection to the wording suggested by the USSR delegation. He firmly hoped that at the sixteenth session, the Secretary-General would be in a position to report positive results to the Council.

64. The PRESIDENT concluded that, as there was no objection, the Council approved the Argentine suggestion, as amended orally by the Soviet Union representative.

It was so decided.

65. The PRESIDENT declared the provisional agenda of the sixteenth session adopted and said that the Secretary-General would transmit it, together with the amendments made by the Council, to the persons

and organizations indicated in rule 12 of the rules of procedure.

Confirmation of members of functional commissions of the Council (E/2385/Add.2)

[Agenda item 27]

66. The PRESIDENT said that, as there was no objection, he considered that the Council confirmed the appointment to membership in the functional commissions of the representatives whose names appeared in document E/2385/Add.2.

It was so decided.

Financial implications of actions of the Council (E/2389 and Add.1 and 2)

[Agenda item 28]

67. Mr. MEADE (United Kingdom) said he would refrain from stating his delegation's views on the documents before the Council. He wished, however, to thank the Secretariat for having prepared that material; it would be very useful both to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to the Fifth Committee.

68. For its part, the Council had already considered the financial implications of the decisions it had taken at its current session. Indeed, it was surprising that item 28 appeared on its agenda as a separate item since, under rule 34 of the rules of procedure, the Council was required to consider the Secretary-General's estimates before adopting any proposal entailing expenditure by the United Nations.

69. In any event, he reserved his Government's position on the question, until such time as the documentation submitted to the Council had been considered by the appropriate bodies.

70. Mr. ARUTIUNIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wondered what budget the funds mentioned in document E/2389/Add.2 were being drawn from, whether they constituted new appropriations or were being drawn from appropriations already approved. If they represented additional costs, the USSR delegation would oppose the allocation of funds to cover them because it considered that the Council should remain within the limits of the budget assigned to it by the General Assembly.

71. Mr. BLOUGH (Secretariat) said that the \$59,500 mentioned in paragraph 1 of document E/2389/Add.2 represented expenditure to be covered by the funds appropriated for the financial year 1954. It would be incurred by three conferences to be organized in 1954 and had already been approved by the Council. The 1954 budget had not yet been prepared; when it was drawn up, the appropriate bodies would have to decide against what funds the sums indicated should be drawn.

72. Mr. ARUTIUNIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was against the allocation of any additional funds because he felt that the expenditure for 1954 should not exceed that provided for in the 1953 budget. An effort should be made to reduce expenditure, not to increase it. That could be done by organizing the work more judiciously; a relatively minor sum was involved, as compared with the Council's general budget and the total United Nations budget.

73. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) thought that the United Kingdom representative's earlier remarks concerning the documentation submitted to the Council

reflected the same concern as that expressed by the USSR representative.

74. Like the United Kingdom delegation, the Belgian delegation wished formally to reserve its Government's position with regard to the 1954 budget.

75. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) recalled that his delegation had had occasion to express its view that the figures before the Council were debatable. The United States delegation hoped that the Advisory Committee would find a way to reduce the proposed expenditure.

76. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the Advisory Committee, when studying the summary records of the Council's session, would certainly not fail to take account of the remarks made during the debate.

Non-governmental organizations: (a) applications and re-applications for consultative status report of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/2411 and E/L.506) (concluded)

[Agenda item 24 (a)]

77. The PRESIDENT recalled that at the close of its 702nd meeting, the Council had decided to defer the debate and the vote on the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom because the text had not yet been distributed. It was now before the Council (E/L.506) and read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council

"Decides to undertake at its seventeenth session a general review of all non-governmental organizations admitted to consultative status in category B at or before the thirteenth session of the Council;

"Requests the Secretary-General to undertake preparation of the necessary documentation."

78. Mr. BRACCO (Uruguay) supported the United Kingdom draft resolution.

79. Mr. MUÑOZ (Argentina) said he would vote for the draft resolution. The explanations given by the United Kingdom representative at the end of the 702nd meeting had convinced him that the draft resolution did not prejudice the consideration by the NGO Committee or by the Council of applications and re-applications for admission to consultative status.

The draft resolution was adopted by 14 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.

Closure of the fifteenth session

80. The PRESIDENT stated that as the Council had completed its agenda he proposed to close the session.

81. Mr. NUÑEZ PORTUONDO (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the four Latin-American delegations, congratulated the President on his masterly conduct of the work of the fifteenth session. Under his enlightened guidance, the Council had been able to work rapidly and effectively in an atmosphere which was most gratifying and which, it was to be hoped, would always prevail in the future.

82. Mr. WADSWORTH (United States of America) regretted that he would be unable to attend the sixteenth session. He had learned a great deal at the current session and would always retain a pleasant memory of the extremely cordial relations which had existed at all times between delegations. It was noteworthy that almost unanimous agreement had been reached on particularly important questions.

83. He had been struck by the interest shown by all delegations in the needs and aspirations of the under-developed countries and by the unanimous desire to improve living conditions throughout the world, to maintain economic activity and to ensure a high level of employment.

84. Some representatives had expressed their apprehension, or perhaps their hope, that the free world would find it impossible to maintain a high level of employment and to extend its economic frontiers. The representative of a Communist non-governmental organization had prophesied a disastrous future for the free world; that representative could only be left to her pessimism.

85. The future could be faced with confidence. The United States, for its part, would continue to make every effort, in co-operation with the nations which wished to join it, to give the world a lasting peace. The establishment of peace, far from being a threat to standards of living, would clear the way for an economic and social development unprecedented in the history of the world. Peace, not war, had enabled the United States to become a great Power, to exploit its natural resources and to secure for the American people the living standards which they now enjoyed.

86. The United States delegation applauded the efforts of the United Nations to apply the common intellectual and material resources to the great task of improving the world economic situation, by preventing dangerous fluctuations and promoting the struggle against famine and disease. Results could be achieved only through general economic and social progress, especially in the under-developed countries. The delegation and Government of the United States would continue unremittingly to participate in the collective effort to assist, through the Council and the specialized agencies, the countries which were not yet able to harness their own efforts, in order to lay the foundations for further and more extensive economic and social progress throughout the world.

87. He paid a tribute to the manner in which the President had conducted the work of the session and thanked delegations for demonstrating a true spirit of understanding and co-operation.

88. Mr. JUNG (India), speaking for the Egyptian and Philippine delegations as well as his own, congratulated the President and thanked him for the friendly but firm manner in which he had guided the Council's work. The fact that all the agenda items for the session had been considered in a harmonious atmosphere with a minimum of controversy was undoubtedly due to the spirit of co-operation of all delegations, but especially to outstanding talents of the President.

89. He also thanked the Secretariat, which had performed a very difficult task to everyone's satisfaction and all departments of which, in their respective fields, had given the Council valuable assistance.

90. Mr. MATES (Yugoslavia) regretted that he had been unable to attend all the meetings of the Council and hoped that that would not be the case at the sixteenth session. He congratulated the President, whose firmness, courtesy and conciliatory spirit had contributed largely towards the harmonious atmosphere in which the discussions had taken place.

91. He thanked the Secretariat for its unceasing efforts; it had performed a difficult task under conditions which were not always easy and which accounted, in particular, for certain delays in the circulation of

documents. It was handling its growing volume of work with praiseworthy conscientiousness and goodwill. He paid a special tribute to the members of the Secretariat who had participated in any way in the work of the session and had contributed to its success.

92. Mr. HSIA (China) joined in paying tribute to the President and said that he was glad to have had the privilege of working under such enlightened guidance. All delegations had appreciated the competence, tact, courtesy and impartiality of the President, who might be said to have enhanced the dignity and prestige of the Council.

93. He also extended congratulations and thanks to the Vice-Presidents and to all departments of the Secretariat, whose timeless efforts had been a major factor in the success of the session.

94. Mr. ARUTJUNIAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) congratulated the President for having conducted efficiently and to the general satisfaction proceedings which had sometimes been complex and often delicate. All delegations had shown their co-operation in facilitating the President's difficult task; the USSR delegation was conscious of having spared no effort to that end and hoped that that had not remained unnoticed. It could be said that from the procedural point of view the conduct of the fifteenth session had been excellent. A tribute was also due to the two Vice-Presidents who had shown themselves to be worthy rivals of the President in their conduct of the work of the Economic Committee and the Social Committee.

95. The USSR delegation wished to thank and praise all members of the Secretariat who had contributed to the work of the session, and especially the interpreters and précis-writers, whose assistance was indispensable to representatives in following and analysing the discussions.

96. The fifteenth session had been held at a period which might become historic. The Council now had an excellent opportunity to become an effective instrument of international collaboration, but much still remained to be done. Even at the current session, although noteworthy progress had been made, a spirit of sincere co-operation had not always prevailed. The Council had too often been used in the past as an instrument of the policy of a group of States which sought to impose their decisions on another, smaller, group. The Council must admit all political and economic ideologies; discrimination could only lead to absurd situations, inconducive to the establishment of harmonious relations. Any manoeuvre—and there had been recent examples of such—which might undermine the sincere efforts of some delegations, including that of the USSR, to develop international co-operation in the general interest must be condemned and forbidden.

97. Since there was no economic problem which could not be solved by a round-table discussion, the Council could play a vital part in the economic and social development of all countries. If it was to do so, however, certain delegations must agree to change their usual attitude, to respect other ideologies and not seek to impose their wishes and their decisions on others. New tendencies had become apparent during the fifteenth session; that was a welcome development, but the harmony achieved was still by no means perfect. Only mutual respect could constitute the basis for the sincere co-operation which was essential for the accomplishment of the great tasks the Council had to assume if it wished to further economic and social progress, an essential condition of real and lasting peace.

98. The USSR had struggled unremittingly for the cause of peace. Unfortunately, it had suffered greatly from the scourge of war. It believed that the Economic and Social Council could be an excellent means of ensuring international co-operation for the peaceful building of a better and more prosperous world. To achieve that end, certain delegations must prove by their deeds that a new spirit prevailed in the Council; only then could the Council play the part assigned to it under the Charter. He hoped that that development would come about at the sixteenth session.

99. Mr. BORIS (France) did not wish to moralize on the fifteenth session but merely desired to thank the President and to say how much the French delegation appreciated the way in which he had conducted the session's work. He (Mr. Boris) spoke also on behalf of the United Kingdom, Swedish and Turkish delegations which had asked him to pay a tribute to and to thank the President.

100. Mr. Scheyven had been unanimously elected and the members of the Council were unanimous in congratulating themselves on having chosen a President who had always demonstrated authority, impartiality, tact, even-temper, and a strength of mind which was a sign of his intelligence and understanding.

101. He also congratulated the two Vice-Presidents, Mr. Muñoz and Mr. Birecki, whose conduct of the proceedings in the Social Committee and the Economic Committee, respectively, had been irreproachable. Lastly, he joined in paying a tribute to the Secretariat and thanking it for its valuable assistance to the Council.

102. The PRESIDENT said that he was much moved by the very kind words addressed to him and would communicate the praise and thanks of all delegations to those who had assisted him. He considered that the quality of the work done by a President depended fundamentally on the calibre of his assistants. His work had been greatly facilitated by the presence of the Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretary-General, the Secretary of the Council and numerous assistants of both sexes who had given him their advice and attention at all times.

103. Among his assistants first place must be given to the two Vice-Presidents, Mr. Muñoz and Mr. Birecki, who had directed the work of the Social Committee and the Economic Committee in a masterly manner. None of the questions dealt with in committee had given rise to fresh debate in the plenary meetings. In view of the zeal shown by the two Vice-Presidents and the excellence of the work accomplished under their direction, he would suggest that at the sixteenth session plenary meetings should be held only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, the other days being devoted to committee meetings.

104. He recalled that on accepting the presidency, he had expressed the hope that the Council would rapidly achieve a practical solution of every question on its agenda. He was glad to note that all the problems taken up had been studied conscientiously and suitably dealt with, unanimity being reached on the most important and delicate questions.

105. The principal discussions had centred on the world economic situation. He did not intend to review that debate, but wished to emphasize a number of points of particular importance. The supporters of a controlled economy as well as those of a free economy had praised the merits of the economic system they had

deliberately chosen. It was clear that both systems had their advantages and disadvantages. The supporters of a capitalist economy, who were in the majority in the Council, had had the merit not to hide their concern at the economic recession which seemed to be approaching, and which might grow worse if the present rearmament economy were suddenly converted into a peace economy.

106. All delegations had welcomed the slackening of tension in international affairs since, as one representative had expressed it, any promise of peace was a sign not only of hope but also of prosperity, for peace was essential for economic progress.

107. But the danger of a recession was none the less real and a tribute should be paid to the representatives of the free economies for not having concealed their concern in that connexion. It was a proof that those States had decided to do everything possible to maintain full employment at home and to raise the standard of living of the peoples. A free economy was certainly more vulnerable than a controlled economy, and too many conversions and reconversions could not be imposed on it without causing harm. At the end of the Second World War the transition from war production to peace production had been effected without any appreciable ill-effects, as the demand for armaments had been replaced by a large accumulated demand for civilian goods. At the present time there was little chance that such a reconversion could take place automatically and smoothly. Joint action by countries with a free economic system would be necessary to stimulate demand.

108. Representatives of the under-developed countries had drawn the attention of the industrialized countries to the possibility of stimulating such a demand for consumer and capital goods by the development of the under-developed countries. It had been pointed out during the discussion that world income was at present more unevenly distributed than before the war, that the gap between the rich and poor countries had widened, that inequality of development between the industrialized countries themselves was appearing, and that as compared with the 1934-1938 period agricultural production had increased by 10 per cent, while world population had increased by 15 per cent. The representatives of the under-developed countries had therefore been quite right to call the attention of the Council and the whole world to the distress in those countries, and he had been specially glad to note that all delegations had endeavoured to grasp the seriousness of the problem.

109. It seemed that the Council had agreed unanimously that (1) the development of raw materials production in the under-developed countries should be accompanied by a certain degree of industrialization in order to make those countries consumers as well as producers of raw materials; they would then be in a better position to withstand fluctuations in the world market and would offer the industrialized countries new markets for their capital and consumer goods; (2) such industrialization should not interfere with the increase in the production of foodstuffs; (3) the industrialized countries should for their part make a great effort to improve the training of workers and to increase their investments in the under-developed countries in order to improve the products of the latter.

110. In the financial field there should be a movement of capital from countries which had large surpluses in their balance of payments to countries which had to

make an investment effort, that was to say, primarily to the under-developed countries which could not accumulate adequate capital reserves, and, if necessary, to any industrialized countries which might from time to time have need of it.

111. As regards trade, customs barriers should be suppressed or at least lowered, economic concentration should be encouraged in order to increase exchange values, economic expansion should be assured by specialization in production throughout the world, and commercial exchanges balanced by greater freedom of trade. He had noted that several representatives had expressed the hope that trade between the East and the West would increase. Such a development was very desirable and would solve certain difficulties underlying the world economic imbalance. What had not been possible to date might be possible in the future when peace was no longer merely a hope but a reality.

112. All those problems had been discussed in a very positive but general way during the session. There was perhaps regret in some quarters that practical solutions had been deferred until the sixteenth session, but for his own part he thought it better to do so. The industrialized countries had been unable to reply as favourably as they would have wished to all the requests made to them by the under-developed countries, since rearmament absorbed all their financial and material resources. It was to be hoped that the situation would be different by the time of the sixteenth session. For the first time perhaps since the war large amounts of capital would

become available and the development of the under-developed countries would become necessary for the economic future of the industrialized countries. The latter should not be accused of selfishness. An effort should be made to realize the facts and understand that it was necessary for the world to be at peace and for tangible proofs of goodwill on the part of all to be forthcoming if that great task was to be undertaken.

113. No time should be lost during the coming two months if the Council were to do really useful work during its next session and hopes of peace were to become a reality. All delegations should ensure that they received positive instructions from their governments in order to enable the Council to arrive at a concrete solution of all the problems it would study. The Council should not find itself unable to take decisions at such an important moment in world history when a small delay might have disastrous economic and social consequences.

114. The fifteenth session had taken place at a time marked by a relaxation of tension and respect for the principles of the Charter. It was to be hoped that at its sixteenth session the Council would be able to go forward still further and in compliance with Article 55 of the Charter, promote higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development.

115. He declared the fifteenth session closed.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.