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President: Mr. Juan I. COOKE (Argentina)

Present:

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, France, India, 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: Israel, Mexico, Netherlands.

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

Report of the World Meteorological Organization (E/2594 and Corr.1)

[Agenda Item 25]

1. Mr. SWOBODA (Acting Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization), introducing the report of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for 1953 (E/2594 and Corr.1), said that on the technical side WMO was constantly being brought face to face with problems that were new to it and which it had, in most cases, to solve by its own resources. It was doing its utmost to ensure that meteorology made the fullest possible contribution towards solving the various problems arising in daily economic life. The report contained a long list of technical projects the first steps towards the implementation of which had been taken in 1953 by the various organs of the WMO secretariat.

2. During 1953 and the early months of 1954, WMO had endeavoured to draw the attention of governments to the many aspects of the role which meteorology could play in developing the natural resources of a large part of the world. The help of meteorology was essential in drawing up plans for hydro-electric dams, irrigation systems and flood protection; it could help in protecting, increasing and improving the quality of crops; fishermen could seek the advice of the meteorologist and take advantage of the storm warning service; transport, whether in the air, at sea or on land, required an efficient weather service to ensure the safety of human life and property.

3. In the field of technical assistance, WMO had given help to several countries, including the Dominican Republic, Israel, Jordan, Libya and Yugoslavia, by sending experts; it has granted fellowships to those

and other countries. Although the funds available for the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance had been limited, WMO had been able to extend its activities in that field during the current year. Since countries were becoming increasingly aware of the fundamental role that meteorology could play in economic development, it was to be expected that applications for technical assistance in meteorology would continue to increase in 1955.

4. The Organization had at present 86 members, but its budget and permanent staff were still very small. During the first three years of its existence 92 per cent of the amounts due as contributions and advances to working capital funds had been paid.

5. Summing up WMO's situation during 1953 and the first months of 1954, he observed that the centre of gravity of its activity was getting closer and closer to work directly concerned with meteorology. Most of the constituent bodies of the Organization had held their first sessions at the end of 1952, or in 1953 and the early months of 1954. They had completed numerous technical investigations and planned to undertake new ones. Experience gained during those sessions would enable the WMO to work more rapidly and still more efficiently. The Second World Meteorological Congress, which was to open at Geneva on 14 April 1955, would bear that experience in mind when reviewing the Organization's structure and policy and its draft budget for the second four-year financial period. In 1954, WMO would complete most of the projects commenced in 1953, and would prepare a programme of activities designed to increase its contribution and that of meteorology in general towards raising the standard of living and promoting economic development throughout the world.

6. Mr. HARRY (Australia) said that the modest report from WMO gave an excellent account of the work done during 1953. He was particularly gratified to note that the report served the dual purpose of a report to the United Nations and of the annual report to members of the Organization, a practice which his delegation had strongly advocated at the current session. Meteorological services were needed in a number of important fields, as was reflected in the arrangements made by WMO for co-operation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In conclusion he moved the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Notes with satisfaction the report of the World Meteorological Organization (E/2594 and Corr.1)."

7. Mr. CHA (China) said that the varied and highly technical work performed by WMO suggested enormous financial resources, but the figures given in annex 4 to the report indicated that its financial resources were negligible and it was not surprising that it had been obliged to borrow 90,000 dollars from the United Nations in 1951. The loan had been repaid in 1953 and there was now a surplus of 206,714 dollars for the period 4 April 1951 to 31 December 1953. He wondered whether so big a surplus, even if intended as a safeguard, should be retained. Perhaps instead of keeping funds idle they should be used, at least in part, for technical assistance.
8. In 1953, WMO had been largely concerned with organizational matters. Six of its eight technical commissions and three of the six regional associations had held their first sessions. The former had established 35 working groups to deal with specific problems. When the commissions and working groups were well launched on their work a notable technical contribution would have been made to the history of international co-operation.
9. As the report showed, WMO was maintaining close relations with the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other international organizations and had undertaken various studies and research work at the request of or in co-operation with ICAO, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UNESCO and the Economic Commission for Europe. It was also participating in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and had recruited meteorological experts for service in various countries. Its fellowship programme would enable promising trainees to receive further training abroad.
10. In conclusion, he expressed his support for the Australian draft resolution.
11. Mr. MOYNET (France) said that his delegation had noted with great interest the report of WMO and the statements of its Acting Secretary-General. He was glad to see that there had been further important accessions to WMO. Though it had been in existence as a specialized agency for only two years, it now embraced nearly all the countries in the world.
12. The report illustrated the value of WMO's very special system, which was based on long experience, since international co-operation in meteorological matters dated back nearly three-quarters of a century.
13. WMO was, on the whole, doing valuable work, and, with its unusually modest budget, had shown that good work could be done at small cost.
14. The regional associations, mainly because they represented directly the services concerned, regardless of national considerations, had proved themselves most efficient and inexpensive to run.
15. The technical commissions, too, had shown how useful they were. France itself had derived great advantages from their work, and from that of WMO in general, and was delighted to collaborate closely in its technical and administrative activities.
16. As a test pilot, he personally had greatly appreciated the studies, carried out under the auspices of WMO, in high-altitude flying. Such studies would raise standards of safety still higher.
17. With regard to technical assistance, his delegation noted with satisfaction the letter addressed to the Chairman of the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) by the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board concerning the allocation of technical assistance funds to WMO and ITU (E/TAC.42). He hoped that the new procedure for technical assistance administration laid down in the resolution (E/TAC/L.79 and Corr.1) adopted at the 75th meeting of TAC would enable requests for meteorological assistance to be met.
18. He also drew attention to the arrangement made between WMO and ICAO. The efficiency of the two bodies depended on increasingly close collaboration between them at the technical level. That arrangement and the combined efforts of all States interested in the safety of air navigation in the North Atlantic had made it possible to widen the margin of safety for trans-ocean flights in that part of the world.
19. In conclusion, the French delegation hoped that the Second World Meteorological Congress would enable the necessary adjustments to be made in WMO's programme, since, at that moment, its activities were hampered by the narrow limits fixed for it by its First Congress, which could not have foreseen the rapid development of needs in that field. It was to be hoped that WMO would contribute to the study of the problems arising out of the need for international co-operation in water resource development, an item that appeared on the agenda of the Council's current session (item 4).
20. His delegation supported the Australian draft resolution.
21. Mr. PLEIĆ (Yugoslavia) said it was clear from the report that WMO had done much useful work during 1953, and had achieved efficient co-operation in the exchange of weather data, weather forecasting, standardization of meteorological instruments, methods of observation, etc.
22. Its technical commissions had taken a number of important decisions, including one concerning the draft provisional technical regulations which, in the view of the Yugoslav authorities, would further facilitate and improve the work of meteorological services throughout the world. The preparation of a meteorological lexicon and vocabulary appeared to be a very useful undertaking.
23. The establishment of a meteorological institute would be particularly valuable for small countries, since they had no means of establishing such institutes themselves.
24. WMO had provided useful technical assistance which as far as his own country was concerned would greatly assist towards improving the meteorological services.
25. He would support the Australian draft resolution.
26. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) congratulated the Acting Secretary-General of WMO on his Organization's excellent report to the Council, which was commendable no less for the manner of its presentation than for its substance. The General Review with which the report opened was

unusually interesting, and might be taken as an example by the other specialized agencies.

27. Without wishing to go closely into WMO's activities, his delegation would like to point out that WMO carefully complied with all the recommendations of the Council and General Assembly in regard to concentration of efforts and resources, simplification and rationalization of activities, order of priorities, reduction of documents and administrative and budgetary co-operation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the regional economic commissions and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with activities related to its own. WMO had also been sensible enough to profit by the experience of the other organizations.

28. He was equally glad to note the many contacts made and agreements concluded by WMO during the two years of its existence. He had in mind more particularly the connexions established with ICAO and the extremely valuable part played by WMO in the field of technical assistance.

29. To those general comments the Belgian delegation proposed to add two specific ones. In regard to paragraph 7.1.2 (Recruitment of Staff) of the report, the Belgian delegation would like to stress the urgent necessity for keeping the career of the international civil servant, whether in the United Nations or in the specialized agencies, strictly independent of governments. In that connexion, it was noteworthy that, although WMO was affiliated to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, the Administrative Tribunal recognized by WMO was that of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and not that of the United Nations. The reason for that was evidently the discredit into which the United Nations Administrative Tribunal had fallen as a result of the discussions at the last Assembly; it was looked on as a mere Assembly sub-committee. That was a warning which might be taken to heart after the judgment of the International Court of Justice. Clearly, the idea of WMO, in turning to the ILO Administrative Tribunal, was to give its staff all the protection they were entitled to expect from a real tribunal whose decisions would not be questioned.

30. The Belgian delegation was so anxious that the administration of the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be kept really international and independent of national governments that it felt bound to draw the Council's attention to that situation.

31. The Belgian delegation also wished to draw the attention of the Secretariat to paragraph 7.6 (Language Courses) of the report. It would be a good thing if the United Nations followed WMO's example in that respect. The delegation felt that language allowances were granted far too easily in the United Nations, and that not enough strength of mind was shown in applying the principle of plurality of languages.

32. His delegation was ready, as suggested by the Australian delegation, to take note with satisfaction of the WMO report.

33. Mr. ADIL (Pakistan) complimented the Acting Secretary-General on an impressive report. He had been interested to learn that much of the work of WMO's subsidiary bodies had been done by experts working

without remuneration. He was pleased to note the efforts made to keep down expenditure—an example which other specialized agencies might well emulate.

34. He would support the Australian draft resolution.

35. Mr. MEADE (United Kingdom) associated his delegation with the tributes paid to the work of WMO which had developed in 1953 on the lines envisaged at the First Congress.

36. His Government had learnt with interest of the activities of the technical commissions and regional associations which had done much to standardize and unify meteorological practices. It was pleased to note that the Executive Committee kept a close watch on expenditure. Clearly, expansion in the near future would be restricted by financial considerations which would put the Organization to a severe test since the work which lay ahead would be more difficult than it had been in the past.

37. Mr. PICO (Argentina) associated himself with the congratulations of other speakers. The WMO report indicated the significance and magnitude of the work which had been done. Considering the importance to human welfare of meteorological and climatological factors, WMO's existing budget was inadequate, and the necessary additional funds should be provided.

38. Argentina was keenly interested in the Organization's technical work and in its practical application with a view to increasing agricultural output. It followed with special interest WMO's collaboration with UNESCO in work connected with arid zones and artificial rainfall, the experiments in question having a very practical significance for certain parts of Argentine territory.

39. He would support the Australian draft resolution.

40. Mr. ZAMAN (India) joined other representatives in commending WMO's report. Its contribution to arid zone research and its enquiries into artificial inducement of precipitation were of particular value to underdeveloped countries where the rainfall was irregular.

41. He was concerned to note, however, from the figures given in section 7.1.3 of the report, that WMO did not employ a single staff member from the Asian or Latin American countries, thereby ignoring the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

42. With that reservation he would support the Australian draft resolution.

43. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Socialist Soviet Republics) said that WMO had done notable work in 1953 in assisting the development of meteorological services throughout the world.

44. He would vote for the Australian draft resolution.

45. Mr. BLACKWELL (United States of America) commended WMO on its excellent report. He would single out for mention its exemplary response to the Council's request in resolution 497 D (XVI) that the specialized agencies should devote particular attention to certain topics in their subsequent reports.

46. Clearly, in 1953 WMO had achieved much and without undue expense. That had been made possible

partly by the support it had received from national meteorological services, which had performed many of the tasks that would normally have devolved on the WMO secretariat.

47. Mr. SWOBODA (Acting Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization), speaking on behalf of WMO, thanked the Council for the congratulations and criticisms his Organization had received. They would encourage it to carry on with its activities and improve its methods of work.

48. Replying to the Chinese representative's question about surpluses, he explained that the surpluses had been due to the fact that WMO's activities had not expanded as rapidly as had been hoped. That applied to publications in general, and in particular to the new edition of the Cloud Atlas, the technical and scientific preparation of which would inevitably take a long time if the work was to be free from error. There had also been some delay in recruiting staff owing to the care exercised by the administration in that respect. During recent years WMO had had to transfer certain appropriations from one year to the next and it intended to continue to do so until the end of the current four-year financial period; the total amount fixed for expenditure for the whole period would thus, in practice, be spent during that period.

49. Regarding its recruitment policy, WMO fully realized the necessity for adequate geographical distribution, but a number of difficulties beyond its control had prevented it from fully applying the principle. WMO's technical staff, which was the only staff recruited inter-

nationally, was very small—nine persons from eight countries in 1953, as in 1952, including the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General—and the scientific work it had to do required a high degree of technical specialization. Certain continents were still unrepresented on the staff either because, for example, there had been practically no candidates from some continents or because the applicants had lacked the requisite technical and linguistic qualifications, or again, because they were specialists in one of the branches of meteorology already represented in the secretariat. He hoped there would be a gradual improvement in the situation, perhaps even during 1954.

50. In conclusion, he assured the Council that WMO attached great importance to the Council's opinion and suggestions, which it regarded as fundamental in enabling it to discharge its task.

51. Mr. ZAMAN (India) welcomed the Acting Secretary-General's assurance that staff members would in future be drawn from a wider range of countries. He wished, nevertheless, to place on record the fact that the meteorological department of the Government of India had in the past forwarded applications from a number of suitably qualified persons for vacancies advertised by WMO. None of those candidates had been selected.

52. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the Australian draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.