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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 countries: Brazil, Chile, Netherlands, Poland, Uruguay.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Monetary Fund.

Studies on internal migration (E/2544)

[Agenda item 18]

1. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the Secretary-General's memorandum concerning studies on internal migration (E/2544). No delegation had submitted a written proposal on the subject.

2. Mr. MORALES (Argentina) asked that in the Spanish text of the Secretary-General's memorandum the phrase *migraciones internacionales* should be corrected to read *migraciones interiores*.

3. The PRESIDENT stated that the Secretariat would make the necessary correction.

4. He thought that, as no proposals had been made, the Council could, in accordance with the Secretary-General's opinion, refer the question to the Population Commission, which had decided at its seventh session to give special attention to the problem of internal migration.

It was so decided.

Form of reports of specialized agencies: report by the Administrative committee on Co-ordination under Council resolution 479 D (XVI) (E/2512, E/L.584)

[Agenda item 19]

5. The PRESIDENT asked the Council to take up item 19 of its agenda, and recalled that France had submitted a draft resolution on the question (E/L.584).

6. He pointed out that only chapter 1 of the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (E/2512), which was before the Council, dealt with agenda item 19. The other chapters of the report referred to item 23, and would be considered during the Council's summer session.

7. He invited the Secretary-General's representative to present the chapter of the report dealing with item 19.

8. Mr. HILL (Secretariat) recalled the provisions of Council resolution 497 D (XVI), and summarized the conclusions to which the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had come after examining the form of reports of the specialized agencies. The Committee's conclusions on the regular reports of the specialized agencies were set forth in paragraphs 6 to 11 of its report, and its conclusions on special reports in paragraphs 12 to 15.

9. Mr. HESSEL (France) did not think that the Council should debate the question under consideration at great length. He had no wish to minimize its importance; on the contrary, he recognized that the reports of the specialized agencies were essential to the Council in its task of co-ordinating the work of United Nations organs and the specialized agencies.

10. He agreed with the ACC that considerable latitude should be allowed to reach agency in the preparation of the regular reports. In his opinion, the agencies should no longer produce complete reports, apart from their annual reports; and should confine themselves to submitting the latter, accompanied by a commentary, which might vary in form and might, according to the circumstances, consist of a brief memorandum or a detailed analysis of any important question on which the agency might wish to obtain the Council's advice and co-operation. Generally speaking, he agreed with the ACC's comments as set forth in paragraphs 6 to 11 of its report.

11. With regard to the special reports, he endorsed the views expressed by the ACC as to their multiplicity and thought that it would be desirable to ensure that too many requests should not be made for reports of that kind. In his opinion, encouragement should be given to the preparation of a certain number of global reports on questions of interest to several specialized agencies, such as the report on the world social situation and the international survey of national programmes of social development. As such documents were among the most important instruments of information and influence produced by the United Nations, practical methods of preparing them should be carefully studied by the ACC. On the whole, the quality of the reports was certainly improving, but it might become still better; furthermore, the quantity might be reduced.

12. But that was a problem beyond the scope of item 19 on the Council's agenda and it could only be tackled in conjunction with the much wider question of the reorganization of the Secretariat, which would be considered at the eighteenth session. He hoped that in the

interval further specific proposals might be made, not only by the ACC, but also by the Secretary-General.

13. The French draft resolution had been drawn up with that end in view, and he hoped that it would be unanimously supported by the members of the Council.

14. Sir Douglas COPLAND (Australia) was in entire agreement with the French draft resolution.

15. He attached the greatest importance to close co-operation between the specialized agencies with related activities, so that duplication and overlapping might be avoided, and he hoped that the ACC would take that matter into consideration when preparing its proposals for submission to the Council at its eighteenth session.

16. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) agreed with the views expressed by the French and Australian representatives.

17. He suggested, however, that in order to facilitate examination of annual reports by the Council, consideration might be given to the advisability and possibility of requesting the Secretary-General every year to draw up an index in which the matters referred to in those reports would be listed under the general headings indicated in Council resolution 497 D (XVI). That was a suggestion for the ACC and the Secretary-General to consider in their further discussions on the question.

18. Mr. MORALES (Argentina) was wholly in favour of the French draft resolution.

19. He attached the greatest importance to co-operation between the specialized agencies and the Council and he thought that that co-operation could be rendered more effective by a reduction in the length of the reports.

20. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wondered whether a reduction in the number of special reports would result in the avoidance of overlapping and a saving of money. He would like either the representative of France or the Secretariat to give him some explanation.

21. Mr. HESSEL (France) said that there was no doubt that the study to be made by the ACC would result in simplification and in a reduction of the total number of special reports which United Nations organs asked the specialized agencies to produce.

22. It would, however, be vain to expect that all overlapping would be avoided by that means or that extensive savings would be made. The main point was to reorganize and cut down documentation and to improve it not only quantitatively but qualitatively.

23. Mr. PLEIC (Yugoslavia) agreed with the suggestions made by the ACC. He supported the draft resolution submitted by France.

24. His delegation thought that the reports of the specialized agencies should be presented annually, since it believed, with the ACC, that the reports would lose much of their value if they were prepared at intervals of more than one year. He did not think that the length of reports should be a matter of concern inasmuch as it would vary according to the importance of the questions to which they referred. He also thought that some method should be adopted which would enable the Council to examine the reports more effectively than in the past. That question might be discussed at the Council's summer session.

25. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) said that the conclusions reached by the ACC and the views expressed

by the representative of France would remedy the deficiencies which had been troubling the Belgian delegation. He strongly supported the draft resolution submitted by the French delegation (E/L.584), which was designed to reduce the volume of documentation. That was a question which the Council would have to consider at Geneva along with the question of reorganization of the Secretariat, and it had already been the subject of a General Assembly resolution.

26. Mr. SARPÉR (Turkey) was in agreement with the principle of the draft resolution submitted by France, but feared that the wording of paragraph 2 of the operative part might restrict the freedom of action of the ACC. He would prefer the following form:

"Invites the Administrative Committee on Coordination to submit to the Council at its eighteenth session any suggestions concerning the special reports which United Nations organs request from specialized agencies."

27. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he would support the French draft resolution because it was designed to eliminate duplication in the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and to achieve some savings.

28. He could not, however, support the form suggested by the representative of Turkey because with such vague terms of reference the ACC might reach conclusions quite contrary to the wishes of the Council.

29. Mr. HOTCHKIS (United States of America) fully supported the French draft resolution in its original form and thought that the text would lose its purpose if amended as the Turkish representative had suggested.

30. Mr. MEADE (United Kingdom) also preferred the form suggested by the French delegation.

31. Mr. SARPÉR (Turkey) announced that, as the USSR, United States, United Kingdom and French delegations had spoken against his amendment, he was prepared to withdraw it.

32. Mr. EL-TANAMLI (Egypt) wished to have some assurance that the reduction in the number and length of special reports suggested by the French delegation would not be detrimental to certain regions.

33. Mr. HESSEL (France) emphasized the fact that his delegation's draft resolution was designed particularly to improve the quality of the documents by reducing their number and length and contained no provision which need cause any concern to the representative of Egypt.

34. Mr. EL-TANAMLI (Egypt) said that in the circumstances he would vote for the draft resolution.

35. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution submitted by the French delegation relating to the form of reports of specialized agencies (E/L.584).

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

36. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that he had voted for the French draft resolution because it was designed to eliminate duplication in the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and to reduce the budget.

37. He recalled that the USSR delegation had abstained from voting on resolution 497 D (XVI) and he wished to make it clear that its position had not changed since.

Non-governmental organizations: (a) Applications and re-applications for consultative status: report of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/2550)

[Agenda item 20 (a)]

38. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium), speaking as Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, briefly analysed the Committee's report on applications and reapplications for consultative status (E/2550).

39. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested that the discussion of sub-item (b) referring to the review of non-governmental organizations should be deferred on account of developments which had occurred since the adoption of the recommendation in document E/2551 that consultative status in category B should be withdrawn from the Women's International Democratic Federation.

40. The NGO Committee had decided the previous day¹ to authorize the representative of the WIDF to have access to the summary records of the closed meetings at which the Committee had adopted the recommendation and to submit a memorandum on the activities of the WIDF. It would only be fair that the Council should defer to a later meeting its consideration of document E/2551, or at least that part of the document which dealt with the WIDF, in order to allow the WIDF representative to obtain information and to prepare her memorandum.

41. The PRESIDENT pointed out that the Council would in any case have to examine sub-item (a) first and that it might consider the USSR delegation's proposal when it came to discussion of sub-item (b).

42. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he was prepared to examine sub-item (a).

43. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, reserved his right to clarify certain points when the Council came to consider sub-item (b).

44. Mr. GORSE (France) said his Government hoped that the Council would not adopt the NGO Committee's recommendation (E/2550, annex, para 3) concerning the Fédération internationale de sauvetage, and would agree to admit that organization to consultative status in category B.

45. The Federation had been founded at the turn of the century, and was composed of thirty-three associations in eighteen countries. It had a French president, and vice-presidents of nine different nationalities; its international character was consequently beyond dispute. It was concerned with all questions relating to rescue and emergency assistance, and could consequently give the Council useful advice on accident prevention and the relevant legislation.

46. Mr. NOSEK (Czechoslovakia) said that he wished to state his delegation's views on the annex to the NGO Committee's report (E/2550).

47. In the first place, the resolution adopted by the majority of the Committee at its 137th meeting (E/2550, annex, para. 3) was inconsistent with the Coun-

cil's resolution 288 B (X) in that it failed to observe the provisions concerning arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations contained in paragraph 35, and specifically in the third part of sub-paragraph (a). In adopting the resolution, the Committee had overstepped its terms of reference.

48. The third part of sub-paragraph (a) made it clear that the only time-limit set for the Committee's consideration of a reapplication or request for change of status was that the matter should be considered "at the earliest at its first session of the second year following the session at which the substance of the previous application or request was considered". Furthermore, sub-paragraph (a) drew a very clear distinction between new applications on the one hand and reapplications and requests for change of status on the other. The date of 1 November referred to in the resolution adopted by the NGO Committee (E/2550, annex, para. 3) applied exclusively to new applications. Consideration of reapplications was governed by the third part of sub-paragraph (a) in paragraph 35 of resolution 288 B (X).

49. The provisions of sub-paragraph (a) were very clear, and the terms of the first paragraph of the preamble to the resolution adopted by the majority of the NGO Committee were contrary to the facts and represented a premeditated attempt to evoke doubts where none could exist.

50. For those reasons, his delegation was unable to accept the resolution adopted by the majority of the NGO Committee, and called upon the Council not to take note of it. On the contrary, the Council should instruct the NGO Committee to comply strictly with the clear provisions of paragraph 35 (a) of resolution 288 B (X), and should request the Committee to reconsider its resolution (E/2550, annex, para. 3), since that resolution was entirely out of order.

51. The intention underlying the attempt of the majority of the NGO Committee to cast doubt on the interpretation of resolution 288 B (X) was to prevent a number of very important non-governmental organizations which contributed or could contribute substantially to the Council's work from being granted consultative status or a change of status.

52. In the annex to its report (E/2550), the NGO Committee informed the Council that it had agreed to defer until 1955 action on the re-applications for consultative status in category B of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and the International Organization of Journalists, and on the request for reclassification from the register to category B of the World Federation of Democratic Youth. That step had been taken for an obvious purpose, which the majority of the Committee sought to conceal by an intentionally false interpretation of paragraph 35 of Council resolution 288 B (X). If the Council wished to fulfil its obligations under Article 71 of the United Nations Charter, and to act in accordance with rules 83, 84, 85 and 86 of its rules of procedure, it was in duty bound to reverse the decisions of the NGO Committee and accede to the requests of the three organizations concerned.

53. The International Association of Democratic Lawyers had branches in forty-three countries. The fundamental idea underlying its work was "to put law in the service of peace". Its activities were based on the aims stated in the Preamble to the United Nations Charter: to maintain and strengthen political rights and funda-

¹ See document E/C.2/SR.139/Add.1.

mental human rights. The International Organization of Journalists had members in thirty-five countries. It worked for the maintenance of peace and the creation of friendly relations among nations through the exchange of accurate and truthful information. It combated war propaganda, sought to protect the Press against the influence of the monopolies, and defended the rights and interests of journalists. The Council had granted consultative status in category B to those two organizations in 1947, but had arbitrarily withdrawn that status by resolution 334 A (XI); it now had the opportunity to make amends for the flagrant injustice which the two organizations had suffered in 1950.

54. The same applied to the World Federation of Democratic Youth, which numbered over 75 million members in ninety-three countries. The purpose of that organization was to work for closer co-operation between young people in economic, political, cultural and social life, on a basis of absolute equality and without any discrimination. Its activities were entirely compatible with the task of the Economic and Social Council, and it was fully entitled to reclassification from the register to category B.

55. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium), Chairman of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, said he felt he would not be abandoning the reserve befitting his office of Chairman if he protested against the Czechoslovak representative's allegations concerning the intentions of the members of the NGO Committee.

56. The majority of the Committee, feeling genuine doubts, had asked the members who had taken part in the preparation of Council resolution 288 (X) for their views. Those members had expressed the opinion that the time limits laid down in sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 35 of the resolution did in fact apply to the three categories of requests. In addition, the Committee had sought the advice of the Legal Department of the United Nations Secretariat, which had confirmed that paragraph 35 lent itself to more than one construction. It had been in order to dispel all uncertainty on that critical point for the future that the NGO Committee had decided to

adopt the resolution contained in paragraph 3 of the annex to its report (E/2550). In so doing, it had in no way overstepped its terms of reference. By the very terms of the resolution, moreover, the Committee had confined itself to giving an opinion, which the Council was free to accept or reject.

57. Mr. MEADE (United Kingdom) concurred with the statement of the Chairman of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. It had been the United Kingdom delegation which had raised the matter in the Committee, precisely because it considered that the provisions of paragraph 35 needed clarification.

58. He regretted however that he was unable to support the French delegation's request for the granting of consultative status in category B to the *Fédération internationale de sauvetage*. Although that organization was doing praiseworthy work, its field of activity did not directly concern the Council.

59. Mr. TSAO (China) said that his Government appreciated the true value of the work of the Red Cross societies, and knew how useful their participation in the Council's work might be. However it could not approve the granting of consultative status in category B to the League of Red Cross Societies, which had admitted the Peking Red Cross to membership. That organization was a tool of the Communist régime, and its activities were inconsistent with the objectives and principles of the United Nations.

60. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that the criticisms directed against the Red Cross came from a person who had no connexion with China, and did not represent the lawful government of that country.

61. The CHAIRMAN said that the question of the representation of China had been settled by a General Assembly decision. Until that decision was reversed, nobody had the right to challenge the capacity as representative of China of the representative occupying China's seat.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.