



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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*President:* Mr. Raymond SCHEYVEN (Belgium).

*Present:*

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

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Universal Postal Union, World Meteorological Organization.

**Annual Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (General Assembly resolution 428 (V), annex, chapter II) (A/2394 and Corr.1 and E/L.523 and Add.1) (concluded)**

[Agenda item 19]

1. Mr. HESSEL (France) said that his delegation concurred in the suggestion made by the United Kingdom delegation at the preceding meeting that the question of broadening the scope of the Advisory Committee's functions should be left in abeyance until the General Assembly's decision about the continuation of the High Commissioner's Office was known; the French delegation would therefore withdraw its draft resolution (E/L.523). When the General Assembly had taken its decision, the Council could examine the question of the functions of the High Commissioner's Advisory Committee.

2. Mr. TUNCEL (Turkey) announced that his delegation would have voted in favour of the French draft resolution if it had been put to the vote.

**Report of the Universal Postal Union (E/2383 and E/L.525)**

[Agenda item 21]

3. Mr. HESS (Director of the Universal Postal Union) confined himself to pointing out that during 1952 the

XIIIth Universal Postal Congress had met in Brussels and had revised all the agreements of the Union; the agreements concluded in Brussels had come into force on 1 July 1953. During the same year, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) had moved into its new building in Bern.

4. In conclusion, he observed that the financial situation of UPU was very satisfactory and that the deficit in its pension fund was much smaller.

5. Mr. BIHIN (Belgium) said that his country had been happy in 1952 to play host to the XIIIth Universal Postal Congress, which had adopted an impressive number of important resolutions.

6. He noted that once again the UPU report showed the value of the work accomplished in its own technical field by the doyen of the specialized agencies. The Belgian delegation therefore had pleasure in presenting the draft resolution contained in document E/L.525.

7. Mr. BAKER (United States of America) observed that since the scope of UPU's activities was restricted, the Council's resolutions on priorities did not apply. It was assumed that the Executive Director of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration (TAA) had informed UPU of several projects in the postal field that had been requested, since such technical assistance was of interest to UPU. Although the UPU budget was small, it might well, for the purpose of comparison, be presented in the standard form requested from the other specialized agencies. Attention might be drawn to the value of the annual UPU report to the United Nations as a medium of information for both experts and the public, as its other publications were bulky and difficult for anyone outside UPU to understand and were, moreover, for the most part published only in French.

8. He regretted the omission of any reference to the resolution adopted by the Brussels Congress regularizing the relationship of the United Nations postal administration with UPU and recommending procedures to discourage any hasty action by the specialized agencies with regard to postal activities. That resolution had been the basis for resolution 451 (XIV)<sup>1</sup> of the Economic and Social Council, requesting the specialized agencies to observe those procedures. It was highly satisfactory to note that those agencies which had been considering proposals for postal arrangements similar to those of the United Nations postal administration had now dropped them. In order to clear up some misunderstandings concerning the application of the resolution to arrangements between a specialized agency and a

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 1*, resolution, page 49.

host government for the issue of overprinted or special stamps by the latter's postal administration, he wished to emphasize the point that the United States delegation, which had sponsored that resolution, had never intended it to apply to arrangements of that nature, and had in fact said as much when it introduced the resolution.

9. Mr. HESS (Director, Universal Postal Union) explained that TAA had not as yet requested UPU to supply it with information on postal techniques. UPU was, of course, fully prepared to collaborate with TAA in that respect.

10. UPU had adopted a system similar to that of the other specialized agencies in presenting its budget for the current year; that would make its financial situation easier to study.

11. The issuing of stamps by the postal administrations of host governments was a question to be solved by agreement with the host government concerned.

*The Belgian draft resolution was adopted by 17 votes to none, one member being absent when the vote was taken.*

### **Report of the World Meteorological Organization (E/2428 and E/L.526)**

[Agenda item 29]

12. Mr. SWOBODA (Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization) said that the outstanding feature of the first two years' work by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) had been a big effort to put the organization's machinery in motion; with limited financial resources it was nevertheless called upon to play a considerable part in most of the great problems engaging the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The many administrative and financial difficulties, inevitable in the initial stages, had been to a large extent overcome. Administrative work had, in any case, been eclipsed by ever-growing technical activities.

13. The report disclosed the continuous increase in the number of the organization's members, of whom there were now eighty, comprising fifty-seven States and twenty-three territories. Meetings of the technical commissions and regional associations were growing ever more numerous. The Secretariat was taking an increasing part in the organization's technical work. Relations with the United Nations and various specialized agencies, as well as with a growing number of governmental and non-governmental organizations, were developing, as could be seen in chapter 6 of the report.

14. The Technical Assistance Board (TAB) had authorized WMO, for financing its projects, to draw on the credits allocated to the United Nations. Chapter 7 of the report was devoted to technical assistance, in particular to the working arrangement concluded by WMO with TAA. It was worth noting that in 1952 WMO had already been able to send a mission in microclimatology to Israel. WMO was so far participating in six technical assistance programmes, and eighteen more projects were under consideration.

15. Chapter 8 of the report, dealing with the organization's technical activities, described in detail the activities of the technical commissions, eight in number, of the regional associations, of which there were six, and of the Secretariat. He would mention only the technical projects of common interest. These were, in particular, the WMO technical regulations, such as those of the Commission for Maritime Meteorology and of the other technical commissions which would be submitted to the organization's Congress for approval. The organization would publish a new cloud atlas by the end of 1953 or at the beginning of 1954. It was also engaged in drawing up world maps of thunderstorm activity at the request of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Further, a world symposium on the detection of atmospherics—a means of locating thunderstorms—had been held at Zurich in the spring; particular consideration had been given to subjects submitted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

16. WMO was especially interested in arid zone research. It was preparing to put into execution a programme dealing with the study of climatic conditions, the knowledge of which would promote better living conditions in arid and semi-arid areas; it would collaborate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other specialized agencies.

17. WMO would also participate in the International Geophysical Year, 1957–58, organized by the International Council of Scientific Unions; in upper air research it would assist the International Union for Geodesy and Geophysics, which had drawn up a programme for world days devoted to that research. Following the rapid improvement of daily observations at high altitudes, it was increasingly important that the findings obtained should be available to research students in adequate form. The Secretariat was at present studying aerological diagrams used by some fifty meteorological services throughout the world, with a view to submitting a comprehensive report to the next session of the Commission for Aerology. It was also engaged in preparing publications, a list of which appeared as annex I of the report. It had, in particular, published at the beginning of 1953 a manual of daily world meteorological observations. Since the spring of 1952 it had also been publishing quarterly the *WMO Bulletin*, summarizing the organization's work and current developments in international meteorology.

18. Referring, in conclusion, to chapter 9 of the report, "Administrative and Financial Activities", he pointed out that the WMO Secretariat had more than doubled in 1952 as a result of the expansion of the organization's activities. It had become a member organization of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund in 1952, of the Joint Medical Service and of the Staff Mutual Insurance Society against Sickness and Accident of the European Office of the United Nations and other specialized agencies having their headquarters in Geneva. The contributions of the organization's members were increasing as its membership expanded. After citing the totals of contributions and appropriations, as set out in chapter 9 of the report, he emphasized the point that the

accounts at 31 December 1952 showed that the financial situation was satisfactory.

19. Mr. STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia) paid a tribute to the extremely expeditious co-ordination of meteorological services carried out by WMO. One of the few objections his delegation had to its programme was that insufficient attention had been paid to the desire of many countries to participate in the work of the expert commissions. In 1953, four such meetings were to be held in America, only one in Europe; more meetings should be held in Europe in future, since that continent was almost equidistant from America, Asia and Africa. Furthermore, his country felt that it had not perhaps received all the technical assistance it deserved. In 1952, Yugoslavia had planned to receive four experts and had applied for sixteen scholarships abroad; only two experts had been sent, and no scholarships had been provided. Countries in which the meteorological services had not yet reached full development might well be granted aid in the form of equipment. Despite those objections, his delegation would vote for the French draft resolution (E/L.526).

20. Mr. QUESADA ZAPIOLA (Argentina) observed that his delegation had received the Spanish text of the WMO report only that morning, and that, in consequence, the technical departments of his Government, not having had the opportunity of studying it, had been unable to send instructions. He hoped that steps had already been taken to remedy the delay in the circulation of documents in Spanish, so that the defect would not become chronic.

21. Nevertheless, he wished to lay stress on the interest taken by his country in the subject. The armed forces of Argentina, undertaking a peaceful task in the southern region of the South American continent, were setting up astronomical observatories which were not only making a contribution to science, but were indisputably reaffirming the sovereignty of his country. Since 1904, Argentina had maintained the South Orkney Islands observatory, for many years the most southerly in the world, and had recently set up new stations, among which were those on Deception and Melchior Islands.

22. His Government would also welcome further information on the influence of climate on the propagation of locusts; Argentina, whose agricultural wealth was prone to occasional attack by that devouring insect, would appreciate such material as well as those studies, mentioned in the report, dealing with increased agricultural production.

23. His delegation would support the French draft resolution (E/L.526).

24. Mr. SHAW (Australia) said that his delegation was satisfied that WMO had developed its activities satisfactorily within the limits laid down by the 1951 Paris Congress.<sup>2</sup> Those activities were being increasingly co-ordinated, and programmes of technical assistance were being developed towards a stage at which they would be of great value to all national meteorological services. The financial and administrative sections of the report were equally satisfactory.

25. Mr. ARMENGAUD (France) observed with interest that a very large number of States were members of WMO, a fact that was undeniable evidence of its utility. He hoped that such an example of universality would be followed by other organizations.

26. The WMO report was a clear and very valuable document, but future reports might perhaps give a comprehensive view of the agency's objectives, the means at its disposal and the difficulties it encountered, thereby facilitating the task of those members of the Council who were not meteorologists.

27. He trusted that the important agreement concluded between WMO and ICAO would soon be ratified by the competent bodies of both organizations.

28. Mr. SEN (India) welcomed the fact that the WMO report, unlike some others, had been economically mimeographed instead of printed. He had been impressed by the account of staff changes (E/2428, paragraph 9.1.2), but, in view of the lengthy debates in the Council on the need for a staff distribution in accordance with regional requirements, he would have appreciated details on its geographical distribution. He wondered, however, why new G-staff members had been interviewed and examined by the chief of the Publications Section; examination by a selection board might have been preferable to interviews by a single person. He noted that the South African Meteorological Service had volunteered to prepare the confidential position code for the use of whaling ships in the Southern Hemisphere (paragraph 8.3.6.3), and asked for information concerning the position with regard to the Northern Hemisphere. He agreed with the Yugoslav representative that technical assistance might well take the form of improving the equipment and knowledge of the national services in order to obtain some sort of uniform standards on a world-wide basis rather than for specific areas.

29. Mr. WARNER (United Kingdom) congratulated WMO on its first full year's work. He would support the French draft resolution (E/L.526).

30. Mr. BAKER (United States of America) said that he had been impressed by the amount of work WMO had achieved at such small cost. Its rapid advance had been due to excellent co-ordination between the Secretariat, the permanent representatives of the expert commissions and the regional associations. Still more gratifying was the co-operation of hundreds of meteorologists who had assisted in the preparation of material for the WMO meetings. The essential task of WMO was to bring together the work of others, rather than to launch out too far on its own. The omission of any reference to priorities was to be regretted. There was some danger that the activities of an agency with so broad a scope might become dispersed. There was a great deal to be done to improve end-products such as better weather forecasting. WMO might well be asked to include in future reports a section dealing with the way in which it had applied the relevant United Nations resolutions on the co-ordination and concentration of efforts.

31. Mr. GABAL (Egypt) and Mr. MALET (Uruguay) said that they would support the French draft resolution (E/L.526).

<sup>2</sup> First Congress of the World Meteorological Organization.

32. Mr. CHA (China) agreed with the United States representative that a list of priorities should be included in future reports. He expressed his gratitude for the technical assistance in meteorology which was to be accorded to his country; it was to be hoped that the appropriate expert would be found and that he would be prepared to render services to a country which had a special position in eastern Asia, where meteorology had an important connexion with civil aviation. From that point of view, co-operation between WMO and ICAO was of the utmost importance.

33. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) pointed out that barely two years had elapsed since the creation of WMO, yet it already had some very fine achievements to its credit. For those reasons, the Belgian delegation would support the French draft resolution (E/L.526).

34. Mr. KURAL (Turkey) associated himself with the congratulations and the expressions of appreciation addressed to WMO and its Secretary-General, and stated that his delegation would vote in favour of the French draft resolution (E/L.526).

35. Mr. SWOBODA (Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization) thanked the members of the Council for their kind welcome and their constructive comments, to which he would endeavour to reply briefly.

36. As regards the place of meeting of the technical commissions, he recalled that the WMO budget contained no appropriation under that heading; the organization had therefore had to accept the invitations of various countries. In 1952 and 1953, four technical commissions had met or were to meet in North America, and three in Europe.

37. The question of technical assistance from WMO to Yugoslavia had been taken up with TAA, and WMO had made efforts to increase the number of fellowships that might be made available to Yugoslav candidates; for the time being, it had been possible to award only three fellowships.

38. Replying to comments concerning equipment for technical assistance, he would remind the Council that the purchase of such equipment was subject to restrictions outside the control of the organization—restrictions which required that only demonstration equipment should be provided.

39. The very important question of locust control would be examined in the near future. The African Regional Association had dealt with the subject in great detail, and it was hoped on that basis to extend to other continents the WMO contribution to locust control activity.

40. Answering the French representative, he stated that WMO would endeavour to give a comprehensive picture of the situation in its next report. The agreement between WMO and ICAO would be considered by the Executive Committee in October 1953, with a view to ratification.

41. As regards the geographical distribution of personnel, he would point out that ten nationalities were represented in the very small secretariat. Recruitment of General Services personnel had been carried out since

May 1952 by the chief of Administrative Services—a post which had not been filled before that time—in consultation with the heads of sections concerned.

42. As to the question raised by the Indian representative concerning meteorological messages from whaling craft, the Maritime Commission, which had a special interest in the question, would certainly undertake efforts, in consultation with the whaling companies, to solve the problem of coding meteorological messages from whaling craft in the Northern Hemisphere also.

43. Lastly, the Executive Committee had at its second and third sessions given detailed consideration to the question of priorities, but had not thought it practicable to lay down a list of priorities at that stage of the organization's development; the agency did, however, make every effort to give priority to all matters affecting technical assistance, arid zone research and public health and, in general, to the development of the well-being of the world's peoples.

44. Mr. MOROSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked whether, under rule 56 of the rules of procedure, the Council should not postpone the vote on the French draft resolution (E/L.526), since it had not been circulated twenty-four hours previously.

45. After a brief discussion, the PRESIDENT proposed that the general debate should be regarded as closed, and that the vote on the French draft resolution should be taken at the beginning of the meeting on the afternoon of 8 July 1953.

*It was so agreed.*

#### **Accession of Viet Nam and the State of the Vatican City to the Convention on Road Traffic of 19 September 1949 (E/2453, and E/L.527 and Add.1)**

[Agenda item 42]

46. Mr. BORIS (France) after reviewing the circumstances leading up to the Convention of Road Traffic after the adoption of the Economic and Social Council's resolution of 28 August 1948 (147 B (VII)),<sup>3</sup> recalled that in virtue of article 27, paragraph 3, the Convention was open for accession by all Member States and by all the States invited to attend the Conference, and that from 1 January 1950 it would be open for accession by States declared by resolution of the Economic and Social Council to be eligible.

47. At its twelfth session, the Council had responded to applications by Monaco and the Federal Republic of Germany on the strength of article 27, paragraph 3, of the Convention and had admitted those States as parties.<sup>4</sup> It was now a question of applying the same procedure in the case of Viet Nam and the Vatican City, which had submitted applications to the Secretary-General in that sense.

48. Accordingly, Argentina, Cuba, France and the United States were submitting a joint draft resolution (E/L.527) which confined itself to resolving to admit Viet Nam and the State of the Vatican City as parties to

<sup>3</sup> See *Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council, Seventh Session*, page 9.

<sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twelfth Session, Supplement No. 1*, page 7.

the Convention. The French delegation hoped the Council would adopt the draft resolution.

49. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) held that whenever the activities arising from an international convention were of a technical nature, it was essential to ensure their complete universality. That necessity, incidentally, had just been stressed during the examination of the WMO report. The Belgian delegation had no hesitation, therefore, in adding its name to those of the sponsors of the joint draft resolution (E/L.527/Add.1).

50. Mr. HSIA (China) said that his Government was entirely in favour of extending the applicability of the Convention, and the Chinese delegation would support the draft resolution.

51. Mr. DHARMA VIRA (India) asked whether the two parts of the joint draft resolution would be put to the vote separately, so as to indicate the Council's decision in respect of each application.

52. Mr. MOROSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Soviet Union delegation had indicated its point of view when the question of admission had been raised in connexion with the agenda. His delegation did not consider that the application concerning Viet Nam emanated from the lawful government of that country and would therefore vote against part A of the resolution.

*Part A of the joint draft resolution was adopted by 12 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.*

53. Mr. RIVAS (Venezuela) said that the favourable vote cast by his delegation on Part A was motivated exclusively by consideration of the Convention on Road Traffic as a technical instrument. Venezuela endorsed the view put forward by the Belgian representative that participation in such conventions should be as universal as possible.

54. Mr. DHARMA VIRA (India) said the point at issue had not been universality in the application of the Convention, but the eligibility of certain States—e.g., Viet Nam—to accede to it. The principle of universality was not under discussion, but on the question of eligibility the Indian delegation had abstained from voting.

55. Mr. EL TANAMLI (Egypt) recalled that his delegation, for obvious political reasons, had abstained from voting on the proposal to include in the agenda the question of Viet Nam's accession to the Convention on Road Traffic. For the same reason, it had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution concerning that State (E/L.527/Add.1).

*Part B of the joint draft resolution was adopted by 15 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.