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President: Mr. ENGEN (Norway).

Present:

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Greece, Indonesia, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

Observers from the following countries: Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain, Venezuela.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization, Universal Postal Union, World Meteorological Organization.

AGENDA ITEM 3

General review of the development and co-ordination of the economic, social and human rights programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole (E/2820, E/2826 and Corr.1, E/2847, E/2867, E/2873 and Add.1, E/2874, E/2877 and Add.1, E/2878 and Add.1 to 4, E/2879, E/2884, E/2892, E/2894/Rev.1, E/2903) (*continued*)

1. Mr. MARLIN (International Civil Aviation Organization) said that the annual report for 1955 (E/2877) of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) gave a detailed account of ICAO's work during that period. Since the report had been written, the results of the Assembly's tenth session at Caracas had become known.

2. Chapter I in the report described certain problems which the ICAO Assembly had later discussed as matters of special urgency and on which it had decided to take certain important steps. He referred in particular to the flight equipment programmes of a number of interna-

tional airlines which intended to use jet transport aircraft. New types of turbo-propeller aircraft were also to be introduced on world air routes. Both in number of aircraft and in the volume of investment, orders for such aircraft now exceeded those for piston or compound-engine aircraft. They had been placed on the assumption that the present growth of traffic would continue. Statistics showed that if that growth were maintained at the same rate as in 1955, total traffic would have doubled by 1959, and the trend towards lowering costs would certainly contribute to such an increase. Statistics for cargo traffic and mail showed a similar expansion and so gave additional ground for optimism about the future development of civil aviation.

3. The appearance of new high-speed aircraft—particularly jet-powered—operating at various altitudes, and the growth in their number, increased the technical problems of those responsible for safety. Communications between aircraft and ground stations and between one ground station and another had to be improved, especially on such high-density routes as the North Atlantic. It was important to develop radio navigation aids to make it possible for pilots and air traffic controllers to know the exact position at any moment of all aircraft on particular routes; that would improve the utilization of air space on high-density routes. Better radar equipment would increase the capacity of terminal airfields to handle larger numbers of arrivals and departures. In addition, meteorological services, the length and strength of air strips, and visual ground aids required careful and co-ordinated study.

4. The ICAO Assembly was also aware that the implementation of some regional plans for the provision of air navigation services on certain routes lagged behind needs, and recognized that the burden imposed on States in providing facilities and services was likely to increase substantially during the coming few years owing to the increase in traffic and the more exacting requirements of advanced types of aircraft. It had therefore directed the ICAO Council to make an immediate study of air navigation problems arising from those developments and to review present regional plans in order to determine what were the essential and urgent needs as well as the best means, including international financing, to overcome difficulties in implementing those plans. To assist in that task the ICAO Assembly had recommended the establishment of a special panel consisting of a few highly qualified persons of wide competence, with the President of the ICAO Council acting as Chairman.

5. Those decisions were considered to be of the utmost significance to the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation, and showed that member States had recognized the importance of immediate plans to

deal with a problem of increasing urgency and world-wide scope, and of ICAO as the obvious instrument to use for that purpose.

6. The Assembly had also adopted a draft resolution for submission to the Economic and Social Council appealing for additional funds for ICAO's technical assistance missions—now operating in twenty countries—to improve air navigation facilities and services, as well as to develop air transport in general as a means of accelerating the economic development of under-developed countries. The steady advance in civil aviation indicated that States would continue to require aid to enable them to keep up with modern progress, and the Assembly had also proposed that the 10 per cent limit for regional projects should be raised, in view of the importance of training personnel in certain areas and of improving safety standards.

7. It was clear from the action taken at the ICAO Assembly's tenth session that that organization was entering a new and expanded phase of its work and that it was determined to continue earning the confidence of member States by its practical contribution to international co-operation.

8. Mr. NOSEK (Czechoslovakia) said that in discussing item 3 the Council was called upon to find the best way of harmonizing the programmes of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and to ensure that they were carried out in the most effective manner. The documents presented to the Council, as well as the statements of the Secretary-General and the representatives of specialized agencies, had again demonstrated the intricate and—with the rapid developments in science and technology—increasingly complex character of the problems that had to be solved in the economic, social, scientific, cultural and other fields.

9. In the opening part of his introductory statement (E/2894/Rev.1), the Secretary-General had dealt in general terms with the problems facing the United Nations during the past decade, as well as with the results attained, and it was right that the Council should bear in mind during the present discussion the developments of the past ten years. First among them he would place the establishment of the socialist economic system in many countries; that system had become a world-wide one, and its co-existence with the other world economic system—the capitalist system—was creating new relations between countries and States not only in the political but also in the economic, social, scientific and cultural spheres.

10. Secondly, there had been a substantial increase in the membership of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, all of which he hoped would become universal in the near future. The trend towards universality would have a continuing effect on their activities, as witness the growing attention being given to the problem of economic development of under-developed countries; for, as the Secretary-General had pointed out, of the score of new States created since the end of the Second World War, almost all were economically less developed. The Secretary-General had emphasized in particular the imperative needs of the African continent, which had so far been somewhat overlooked. The scope of the work

being done on behalf of the less developed countries must be reconsidered without delay.

11. He was glad that the Secretary-General had emphasized the place which the peaceful application of atomic energy, of such paramount importance to the whole of mankind, would have in the future work of the United Nations. If that new source of energy were to be used for the general benefit and not to destroy, it could help to raise standards of living, particularly in under-developed countries, where the need was greatest. He hoped that the International Atomic Energy Agency would soon be established within the United Nations framework and would yield positive results. Its activity should also be complemented on the regional level—for example, by the creation of an all-European organ.

12. At both the 797th meeting of the eighteenth session of the Council and the 882nd meeting of the twentieth session his delegation had recommended that the United Nations should undertake a far more detailed study of the way in which international trade could be expanded and strengthened. He therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's assurance, in paragraph 21 of his introductory statement, that the promotion of international trade remained one of the Council's priority programmes. The Secretary-General had also expressed the hope that "appropriate international arrangements in this field may shortly be made so as to fill a gap that has too long existed in the machinery for international co-operation". His delegation believed that that should be one of the United Nations' primary objectives, and that careful consideration should be given to the Soviet Union draft resolution (E/L.734) submitted at the 943rd meeting, for establishment of an international organization for trade co-operation.

13. He then referred to the new prospects for international co-operation opened up by the recent relaxation of international tension as another factor which called for a careful review of the economic, social and humanitarian work being undertaken within the United Nations. Only then could the best results be obtained in carrying out the tasks laid down in Chapters IX and X of the Charter. A proper order of priority should be established, and projects of secondary or minor importance eliminated, so that the work might gain in effectiveness and the prestige of the Council, its functional commissions and the specialized agencies be strengthened.

14. In the cultural field, greater attention should be given to developing cultural relations and mutual understanding between East and West and so helping to remove prejudices and create favourable conditions for intensifying contacts between nations, whatever their social system.

15. He commended the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for its work in combating illiteracy, but, as stated in that organization's report (E/2867), it was not enough to teach people how to read and write; their interest in books must also be awakened. Hence the need to increase the number of public libraries, particularly in under-developed countries where illiteracy was most prevalent.

16. He again expressed his delegation's appreciation for the meritorious work of the United Nations Children's

Fund (UNICEF) which he hoped would be inspired by the principles laid down by the General Assembly at the time of its establishment in resolution 57 (I).

17. Conscious of the positive contribution which was being made by the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women, his delegation would support all proposals designed to further the solution of human rights problems in general, but particularly those to improve the status of women and to achieve greater equality between men and women.

18. During the discussion on item 2 (world economic situation), his delegation had already, at the 940th meeting, expressed its appreciation of the work of the regional economic commissions, which had such an important part to play in the economic tasks assigned to the United Nations, and especially to the Council, under the United Nations Charter. He still wished to mention two points having a bearing on the present discussion. First, it was necessary to appreciate the positive attitude taken by some delegations not only towards the broadening and intensification of regional economic co-operation carried out within the framework of the regional economic commissions, but also towards the broadening and intensification of such co-operation within the inter-regional scope. The importance of inter-regional economic and trade co-operation had been stressed by the Czechoslovak delegation already in the past, and was stressed even more today. In its view, which was, it seemed, shared by the French delegation, inter-regional trade consultations could be as successful as those arranged within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe and would contribute to a substantial increase in inter-regional trade, which still left much to be desired.

19. Secondly, he drew attention to the useful contribution which could be made by countries participating in a consultative capacity in the sessions of the regional economic commissions; in that connexion he had been surprised by the comments of the representatives of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and even France during the discussion on item 2 (b). It was significant that a negative attitude should have been adopted towards the participation of European countries in the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the Economic Commission for Latin America by countries possessing special interests in those two regions. At the 940th meeting the United Kingdom representative had sounded a warning about the extent to which some countries, when participating in the work of the regional economic commissions in a consultative capacity, sometimes exceeded the rights accorded to them by the Commission's terms of reference; he (Mr. Nosek) felt uneasy, with more justification, about the manner in which the United Kingdom representative sought to interpret the Council's rules of procedure and the regional economic commission's terms of reference with regard to the participation of Member States not members of the Council or of the commissions in the work of both. That interpretation had nothing in common with inter-regional or international co-operation and contributed nothing towards solving the problem of co-ordination in the economic field.

20. He pointed out that not only the work of UNESCO, but also that of the other specialized agencies, would have

been more successful with the participation of the Central People's Government of the Chinese People's Republic. That country, with its population of 600 million, was now an important economic and cultural factor in the world, particularly in Asia and the Far East. Yet its legitimate place in the United Nations and the specialized agencies was still being occupied by private persons who represented no one.

21. Mr. BRILEJ (Yugoslavia) said that the discussion showed that the Council was determined to discharge the responsibility placed upon it by Article 63 of the Charter "to co-ordinate the activities of the specialized agencies". He thanked the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (E/2894/Rev.1) and enlightening statement at the 942nd meeting which had been of great assistance to the debate, but associated himself with the Netherlands representative in regretting that some executive heads of the specialized agencies had not found it possible to be present.

22. Even a brief glance at the activities of the past decade sufficed to reveal the great efforts made to attain the economic, social and humanitarian aims of the United Nations. To that end, large and complex machinery had been set in motion, statesmen, experts and members of the Secretariat had devoted much patient labour, and a vast amount of documentary material and technical literature had been published.

23. In the course of the decade new problems, needs and methods had emerged. During the immediate post-war years attention had primarily been given to the collection of data and research, but as the problems of under-developed countries had come to the fore the need for practical action had grown and had led, for example, to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and to the assumption by UNICEF of a permanent character, with the long-term task of promoting child welfare. The work of many of the Council's functional commissions, and particularly the regional economic commissions, as well as that of numerous specialized agencies, had also become more operational.

24. Favourable international developments during the past few years had opened up new possibilities in the economic and social work of the United Nations, but the increasing role played by that organization and its specialized agencies was rendering the problem of resources more complex, and the United Kingdom representative's plea at the 942nd meeting for stabilizing budget levels deserved the most careful consideration. The Yugoslav delegation had taken every opportunity in international gatherings to advocate maximum economies and the reduction of overhead and non-productive expenditure to a minimum, so that it shared the views of those delegations which had appealed for energetic measures to check the various departments' continual increases in staff and responsibilities. It would be fatal to the ideals of the United Nations if it could be proved that international co-operation and assistance through the Organization and its specialized agencies was unreasonably expensive. Though there was no hard-and-fast limit to the contributions which governments should be prepared to pay to such important instruments of international co-operation, a more rational use of existing resources was necessary if the United Nations

were to be the channel for additional international funds.

25. With the growing expansion of international work, the problem of co-ordination was acquiring greater significance, and whereas in the past the economic, social and humanitarian work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies had been carried out in a series of more or less separate projects, a number of programmes initiated during the past year—such as those concerning the utilization of power resources, the industrialization of under-developed countries, community development and urbanization, labour productivity and the eradication of major communicable diseases—could not be efficiently and economically executed without joint planning and close co-operation.

26. He did not propose to examine in detail the various aspects of co-ordination which would be considered partly by the Co-ordination Committee and partly in the discussion of other items of the agenda, but would emphasize certain general principles which it was essential to take into account.

27. First, there was still room for greater concentration on problems of paramount importance. On close examination of the extensive range of problems covered by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the impression was inescapable that too much time, effort and money were being devoted to matters of secondary importance. Some projects, though perhaps desirable at the outset, had now become less important or demanded an entirely new approach owing to developments in international relations, but were being continued from year to year for no better reason than inertia. He quoted the so-called problem of freedom of information as an example, on which further work along the same lines would hardly bring any positive results and could only stir up old disputes.

28. Secondly, the selection of major projects should not be formal; in other words, the tendency to include among them, in an artificial way, certain projects inherited from the past should be eliminated. As the Secretary-General had rightly argued, it would be a mistake to fit every programme into the same mould.

29. Thirdly, it was vital to define clearly the purposes of programmes and the means by which they were to be implemented.

30. Fourthly, if international efforts were not to prove fruitless, it was essential to co-ordinate all United Nations and specialized agency activities on a national plane; that was, of course, a task for each country, but it would be greatly facilitated by a rational programme of carefully prepared conferences.

31. His delegation was convinced that the Council, which had often limited itself to taking note of the various reports submitted to it under the item relating to co-ordination, should henceforth discharge its co-ordinating responsibilities with greater firmness. He was not, however, suggesting that the autonomy of specialized agencies or regional economic commissions should be impaired. The experience of the past year had proved useful, and the procedure established at the twentieth session had enabled the Council to carry out its co-

ordinating functions more efficiently. The existence of the Co-ordination Committee not only facilitated the study of the problem from the technical point of view but also made possible a broad approach. The methods thus evolved should be further developed and improved.

32. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) was a necessary instrument of co-ordination. However, policy should emanate from governmental bodies and should be based on the accepted principles of co-operation between governments.

33. The functional commissions could also assist the Council in its task, and as an instance of that he mentioned the Statistical Commission's conclusions at its ninth session about the need to co-ordinate the collection and study of statistical material. Similarly, it was appropriate that the Social Commission should consider and submit recommendations to the Council on such activities as those of the International Labour Organisation for the elaboration of measures to maintain family standards of living and UNESCO's priority programme for scientific research designed to contribute to the improvement of living conditions. The Commission on Human Rights could also be of considerable help to the Council by acting as a catalyst and formulating a general policy for work in the complex domain of human rights.

34. In conclusion, he emphasized that the Council should give more attention to what was primarily its responsibility—namely, the complex and continuing task of co-ordinating the numerous activities and projects, undertaken at various times and in various political, social and economic conditions, and of welding them together into a rational and harmonious programme.

35. Mr. MAHEU (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) apologized to the Council on behalf of Mr. Evans, Director-General of his Organization, who was unable to be present in person to introduce the UNESCO report (E/2867) and submit certain general comments on co-ordination owing to being detained in Paris by an important meeting of the UNESCO Executive Board to discuss, *inter alia*, the Organization's programmes for 1957 and 1958.

36. The UNESCO report for 1955-1956 was a selective report drafted in accordance with the procedure adopted by the Council. The Director-General's reports to the General Conference, which were at the disposal of the members of the Council, contained fuller details of UNESCO's work.

37. The report to the United Nations was based on the following five priorities laid down by UNESCO at the eighth session of its General Conference at Montevideo in 1954: (1) free and compulsory primary education; (2) fundamental education and community development; (3) social and racial tensions; (4) protection of traditional cultures and international cultural exchanges; (5) scientific research.

38. Three of those coincided with the priorities laid down in Council resolution 451 A (XIV): primary education, fundamental education and scientific research. The other two represented work which UNESCO had been doing since its inception, and were in line with some of UNESCO's responsibilities under its Constitution. The activities relating to tensions, particularly social tensions,

and to freedom of information, which formed Chapter VI of the report, were very closely linked with United Nations work for human rights.

39. On behalf of the Director-General, he wished to add a few general comments, first on the expansion of UNESCO activities and programmes, and secondly on the problem co-ordination as UNESCO saw it.

40. The idea of major projects was the main innovation decided upon by UNESCO at the eighth session of its General Conference in 1954. By "major projects" UNESCO meant any action taken on a problem considered as a whole with all its ramifications, as opposed to the former functional method of drafting the UNESCO programme based on the different subjects which were within UNESCO's competence. Those questions were naturally chosen from amongst the priorities previously mentioned. Another characteristic of the idea of major projects was the fact that the projects were ones that would be carried out over a given period—for example, ten years.

41. The Director-General would be submitting the following three major projects to the General Conference which was to meet in Delhi next November: the training of teachers for the development of primary education in Latin America; the development of scientific research on the basic problems upon the solution of which the economic and social development of the arid zones depended; and, on the special request of the Executive Board and member States, the development of international cultural relations to improve mutual understanding of the values of East and West.

42. The first result which application of the new idea would have on the development of the UNESCO programme would be concentration of resources and a much more intense co-operative effort than in the past.

43. The concentration of resources would mean that certain activities would have to be reduced or even abandoned. The effects of concentration were still slight in the draft 1957-1958 budget, since application of the new idea had only reached the first stage, but those effects would increase as more major projects were initiated. Moreover, the Director-General had proposed only a small budget increase for 1957-1958—\$1,000,000 for the two years—and, since one-third of the UNESCO budget, corresponding to general activities, was stabilized, the effect of the major projects could be felt only by the remaining two-thirds.

44. As to the co-operative effort, it resulted from the monolithic nature of the projects: their various components were not superimposed, but integrated in an organic whole.

45. The second facet of the application of the major projects was the possibility of co-operating with other organizations. The major project for the development of the arid zone was an example, answering a question asked by the Chinese representative at the 943rd meeting. UNESCO was to undertake scientific research on the fundamental factors conditioning the economic development of the arid zone—not on that development itself—whereas the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) would concern itself with the practical application of the results of the research. In other words, the demarca-

tion line between the activities of UNESCO and of FAO in that field was the line separating pure and applied research. That division of labour did not lead to separation; on the contrary, it entailed close co-operation between the two organizations, as the remarks of the Acting Director-General of FAO on the project had emphasized—remarks with which UNESCO was in full agreement.

46. Another new factor in UNESCO's programme was that of technical aid services to member States within the limits of its ordinary programme. These services covered all the spheres of competence of UNESCO and were available to all member States, not only to under-developed countries, although the latter were given general priority. In carrying out that programme, UNESCO had found that States experienced certain needs which were left unfulfilled by the purely economic criterion of the technical assistance programme. It had, for example, been struck by the very large number of requests it had received in regard to social science teaching, particularly from Latin American countries, and to cultural activities: public libraries, preservation of cultural treasures, development and diffusion of arts and letters, and cultural exchanges. Those requests came mainly from the economically under-developed countries.

47. Experience showed that culture could not be regarded as a luxury, and that UNESCO's cultural activities were not without value to the under-developed countries. That affected international co-operation in three ways. First, in order to find their place on the international stage, those young States experienced the need to gain an understanding of the bases of their own civilizations. Furthermore, they often wanted to develop their cultural relations with other countries in the same region or with the rest of the world—a side of the problem which had been stressed by the Soviet Union and Czechoslovak representatives.

48. Lastly, as the United Kingdom representative had noted at the 942nd meeting, the efforts of international organizations to develop technological exchanges so as to eliminate inequalities should be accompanied by very careful study of the consequences of that development for the traditional culture of under-developed countries, so as to avoid upsetting the moral and social balance. For that purpose UNESCO had set up in Calcutta a Research Centre to study the social consequences of rapid economic and technological development. The same considerations underlay the third major project which was to be submitted to the Delhi Conference—development of cultural relations between the East and the West at three levels, those of experts, teachers and the general public.

49. On the question of co-ordination, he stated that UNESCO was fully convinced that co-ordination was indispensable if the common effort was to be effective, and was fully aware that its own work was pointless unless integrated in the complete international pattern. Its activities, whether in science, culture or education, could not be imagined in isolation and were of no practical value by themselves. Because it was anxious not only to perform its duty loyally as one member of the United Nations family but also to fulfil its own mission, UNESCO believed firmly in making co-ordination as effective as

possible, and wished to collaborate fully with the Council in doing so.

50. That desire for co-ordination had already borne fruit. For example, the Director-General of UNESCO sent its draft programmes to the secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in advance, and took part in the work of ACC and its organs. A further example was the fact that the UNESCO secretariat and the Executive Board had undertaken a methodical review of the concept of fundamental education in order to promote co-ordination in community development, and had delayed the execution of certain projects relating to atomic energy until the ACC's Sub-Committee on Atomic Energy had decided how responsibilities should be divided in that field. Furthermore, UNESCO had adapted its programme for the study of cell growth in order not to duplicate work undertaken by WHO. The Director-General was also re-examining the draft programme in order to determine how UNESCO could contribute more to teaching about human rights and about the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

51. The Secretary-General had rightly drawn attention in paragraph 20 of his introductory statement (E/2894/Rev.1) to the new problems which faced those who were responsible for the work of co-ordination. Co-ordination would no longer be restricted to the drawing up of priorities; that stage was over. It would henceforward extend to the incorporation of projects within concerted programmes. The Director-General of UNESCO regarded that as a considerable step forward and was ready to collaborate fully in it.

52. It seemed, however, that two essential conditions must be fulfilled. The first was that concepts must be defined in advance. The specialized agencies must all have the same attitude towards the concepts on which the concerted programmes were based. UNESCO's experience in dealing with community development—where basic concepts had had to be revised, with great difficulty, after the work had started—should serve as a lesson.

53. The second condition, as the acting Director-General of FAO had pointed out at the 942nd meeting, was synchronization of the drafting of programmes and budgets. The problem was not easy and should be carefully examined. Some factors such as long-term planning could make that synchronization easier, and the trend in that direction in several organizations, as well as in UNESCO, was certainly healthy. In any case, the agencies concerned should avoid making general decisions and multiplying their activities without first taking part in the necessary consultations.

54. Mr. DE MARCHENA (Dominican Republic) said that the item before the Council, with its review of the development of the programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies over the last ten years, gave rise to the question of the exact role the United Nations family should play in bringing order into the present-day world of anxiety and unrest, hopes and ideals.

55. His delegation had been much impressed by the Secretary-General's statement, and particularly by the emphasis he had placed on education. The Dominican Republic had realized early that in education lay the very

roots of its progress, and it had accordingly devoted all its efforts to a campaign against ignorance. It would like all the countries which had not yet undertaken such a campaign to be able to enjoy the advantages of education, for only by that means could there be any progress in industrial, economic and social fields, and hence the achievement of that political stability that was the goal of every government.

56. The Dominican Republic was a member of all the specialized agencies and co-operated whole-heartedly in all their activities. It was fully aware that the time had come to establish efficient methods of co-ordination. Duplication was no friend of progress. The international community called for the most effective utilization of all efforts and resources and it would indeed be satisfactory if after ten years of experience the United Nations could find the most practical methods to administer and implement its programmes, with a view to achieving the purposes for which it had been created.

57. A general survey of the development and co-ordination of the programmes brought out the importance of two factors: techniques and personnel. The former was important for the practical implementation of the various projects, while upon the latter depended the spirit of international co-operation and understanding that was essential in the relations of the United Nations and its specialized agencies with governments and their representatives. The co-ordination and development of programmes called for a true spirit of justice and impartiality on the part of the international official. His delegation was confident that, if the secretariats of the United Nations and its specialized agencies upheld the proper standards of equity and self-discipline in their various activities, they would maintain the high level that befitted their functions in the United Nations family.

58. Looking back over the years since the creation of the United Nations, there was much cause for satisfaction, despite the disappointments suffered and the mistakes made. While the principle of the right of peoples to self-determination was universally recognized, it was the responsibility of the United Nations to ensure that no over-hasty decisions were taken. A nation must be economically viable before it could be truly independent. The Dominican Republic, which only thirty years earlier had been bound by economic ties and had not achieved true economic independence until 1930, could understand the problems of the under-developed countries and the importance of their receiving every assistance from the international community. Only through material and social well-being was it possible to achieve the peace that was necessary for study and culture, which in turn led to an understanding of human dignity and the principles of equality and respect for law and human rights.

59. His delegation approached the present debate from much the same point of view as had the Netherlands representative. The international community could not escape interdependence, nor could it underestimate the need for solidarity. The American countries had understood that and had given the world an example of co-operation for the solution of common problems.

60. His delegation felt that none of the specialized agencies need have any apprehensions about the desire for co-ordination: there was no question of controlling or cutting down their activities; it was simply a matter of achieving good co-ordination between dynamic and independent bodies, working in different fields that occasionally coincided. In view of the prospects of development in the activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, it might be well for the Council to consider ways and means of establishing rules for co-ordination among the various bodies.

61. It was clear that many States felt concern about the vast amount of resources that were spent on international exchanges, without tangible results. The spate of conferences and congresses that had flooded the world since the Second World War had made great inroads into national budgets, while the constant creation of agencies and organs called for further sacrifice. A day would come when many Member States, especially the smaller ones, would find it impossible to co-operate further in the numerous international programmes.

62. It should be possible to arrange a more effective exchange between the specialized agencies and the United Nations which would help to remedy that situation. The Dominican delegation would be glad to collaborate in a study of the matter.

63. The needs of the under-developed countries, with their problems of malnutrition, poverty, housing and so forth, were urgent. A way must be found to unite the efforts of the world towards one single end, without introducing political considerations. That was the problem before the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The last ten years had been years of study and orientation: the next ten should be years of planning and co-ordination of effort, with a view to removing many States Members of the United Nations from the category of under-developed countries.

64. His delegation was not pessimistic. If the United Nations could pursue its programmes and activities with vigour and enthusiasm, with full confidence in the human beings they were to benefit, it could bring about a better world, in which the principles of equality, respect for the human person and international collaboration would prevail.

65. Mr. DAVIES (Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization) said that he would not attempt to review the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)'s activities—as set out in its report (E/2847)—as a whole, but would mention a few aspects of its programme which might be of particular interest to the Council. At the same time he would reply to some suggestions regarding the programme that the USSR representative had made in his statement at the 943rd meeting. He would not refer to the other comments that that representative had made in regard to some of WMO's recent achievements, but would merely take that opportunity to acknowledge with appreciation his recognition of them.

66. His first point concerned the development of water resources, the importance of which in the development of many countries, particularly in arid and semi-arid

regions, was being increasingly realized. It was a subject to which the Council had given careful consideration and upon which it had adopted several important resolutions.

67. It had long been recognized that meteorology and hydrology were closely interrelated, and WMO, as also its predecessor, the International Meteorological Organization, had for many years accepted various aspects of hydrology as falling within their purview. As a result of the general guidance provided by the relevant Council resolutions and the discussions at the three inter-agency meetings following those resolutions, the role which WMO could play in the matter was becoming more clearly defined. It had been agreed, for example, that WMO should assist the United Nations in implementing the Council's request for a preliminary inquiry into national hydrologic services and plans for their extension, and certain decisions had been taken regarding technical assistance projects in that field which affected WMO. WMO's Executive Committee had considered the question earlier that year and had pledged WMO's interest and full participation in that field of activity. It had also established a panel of six experts to advise the Organization on water resource problems. At the panel's first meeting, which had just ended, important recommendations had been adopted, envisaging a programme which was fully consistent with the agreements reached at the inter-agency meetings and in complete harmony with the Council's resolutions on the subject.

68. With regard to the USSR representative's suggestion at the 943rd meeting that there was need for greater co-ordination of efforts in the fields of hydrology and meteorology, WMO's Executive Committee had reaffirmed the close relationship between hydrology and meteorology and accepted, in a rather more formal way than hitherto, the fact that WMO's activities must be concerned with certain aspects of hydrology; it had also recognized the importance of promoting full co-ordination between national meteorological services and the corresponding national hydrologic services in countries where such co-ordination had not yet been achieved.

69. His second point concerned the International Geophysical Year, which was the title given to a world-wide scientific observational programme covering the period from July 1957 to December 1958, in which most countries of the world were participating. Particular attention was to be given to tropical and polar regions and much publicity had been given to the preparations for the work to be conducted in the Antarctic region, in which several countries already had expeditions for that purpose.

70. By agreement with the special international committee established to plan the operations, WMO had accepted responsibility for the planning of the part of the programme covering meteorology and related subjects, and it had agreed to establish in its secretariat a special centre which would collect the relevant observational records from all parts of the world and would make that unique scientific information available expeditiously and cheaply to all countries of the world. That work would constitute one of the major items of WMO's scientific activities in the next three or four years.

71. The information derived from the International Geophysical Year would be of great benefit to the science of meteorology and to other scientific disciplines, with the result that workers in those fields, applying their specialized knowledge, should be able to give increased assistance to the solution of many of the world's social and economic problems. While it was thus essentially a scientific venture, it would doubtless be of great practical benefit in due course.

72. His third point related to technical assistance. WMO had no regular programme of technical assistance, but had been participating in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance since 1952. It had been able to help a few countries which had no meteorological services to establish them. The first requirement in such cases was the establishment and operation of a network of meteorological stations. The meteorological records which such stations accumulated constituted the sum total of a country's knowledge of its weather and climate, and that knowledge, in turn, was needed in connexion with its economic development. It could be applied, for example, to water-resource problems. An interesting trend of the WMO expanded programme was towards increased assistance with regard to those problems: a number of fellowships in hydrometeorology had already been awarded, and some experts in the subject had been appointed.

73. Meteorology was essentially a subject in which the same problems arose in more than one country, with the result that many meteorological problems were essentially regional in character. WMO felt that more attention should be given to regional projects in meteorological technical assistance in the future.

74. The USSR representative had expressed some concern about two aspects of WMO's technical assistance programme. First, he had felt that the WMO regional associations should be consulted further in the planning of the programme each year. By that he probably meant that greater use should be made of the specialized knowledge of the presidents of the regional associations, who were always directors of one of the meteorological services in their region. The Executive Committee had considered that very question earlier in the year: it had recognized that where possible the specialized regional knowledge of the presidents should be made good use of, but it had also recognized that the basis of every technical assistance project must be a request from an individual government and that the final decision in placing requests for assistance must rest with individual governments and not with regional bodies. It had, however, evolved a formula which it was hoped would take both requirements into account.

75. Secondly, the USSR representative had suggested that there was a lack of co-ordination between the United Nations and WMO on the question of assessing country target figures for the planning of technical assis-

tance projects. That suggestion was probably based on a misunderstanding of the procedure followed in arriving at the country target figures. As that matter would be discussed by the Technical Assistance Committee, he would not go into details, but would merely assure the USSR representative that the procedure applied to WMO was the same as that applied to all agencies participating in the Expanded Programme and any deficiencies the system might have were not due to any lack of co-ordination or understanding between WMO and the Technical Assistance Board.

76. It was possible that some misunderstanding had arisen from the special relationship existing between WMO and the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration (TAA). It had been agreed from the outset that the administrative aspects of WMO's technical assistance projects should be handled by TAA, leaving WMO to concentrate on the scientific and technical aspects. WMO had always received full co-operation and understanding from TAA, and he would like to place on record WMO's appreciation of the assistance it had received from the Director-General and staff of that organization. Those remarks would, he hoped, answer the point raised by the USSR representative.

77. His final point concerned the peaceful uses of atomic energy, a field in which the USSR representative had suggested that WMO should increase its activities. WMO policy on the meteorological aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy had recently been laid down by the Executive Committee: it provided that WMO should play its full part as a specialized agency in advising other international agencies and, of course, the States members of the Organization itself. A panel of four experts, from France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the USSR, had been nominated to advise WMO on those matters. One of the main preoccupations of the panel would be the use of radio-active materials to help the science of meteorology itself. There were wide possibilities for the development of valuable techniques for meteorological purposes and it was expected that when the new international atomic energy agency was established it would be able to give much assistance to WMO and the national meteorological services. WMO would also co-operate with other agencies and committees with a view to assisting in any matter that involved meteorological factors. One obvious question was the movement in the atmosphere of radioactive waste products from reactor plants, whether arising from routine or accidental discharge. The standardization of methods of measurement of atmospheric radioactivity, both on the earth's surface and at great heights, might also be facilitated by reference to existing meteorological observational procedures and possibly by the use of existing networks of meteorological stations throughout the world.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.