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President: Mr. Jerzy MICHALOWSKI (Poland).

Present:

Representatives of the following States: Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Poland, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia.

Observers for the following Member States: Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Netherlands, Peru, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

The observer for the following non-member State: Republic of Korea.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Credentials of representatives

1. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that the report of the President and Vice-Presidents on credentials of representatives to the thirty-third session of the Council had been distributed as document E/3607.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Natural resources (E.3578, E/3587, E/L.945 and Add 1, E/L.948, E/L.950, E/L.951) (*concluded*)

2. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the United Nations had done useful work in developing the natural resources of the under-developed countries. The activities of the Organization in that field had been intensified: the number of experts sent to under-developed countries had increased and important meetings had been held, including the United Nations Conference on New Sources of Energy (Rome, August 1961) and the Inter-regional Seminar on Techniques of Petroleum Development (New York, January-February 1962).

3. However, there was still much room for improvement. Natural resources development was one of the main problems of the modern world and a prerequisite for economic progress in the developing countries. It was the function of United Nations organs — and particularly of the Economic and Social Council — to assist under-developed countries in finding the simplest, cheapest and most effective methods available. However, as all must acknowledge, that task had not yet been completed. As many representatives had remarked in the Council, in the Committee for Industrial Development and in other organs, and as was borne out by the discussions at the current session, United Nations activities in that field had not yet acquired the requisite scope.

4. While the report on work being done in the field of non-agricultural resources (E/3578) was on the whole well done, there were some omissions in chapter III which could be easily corrected. Specifically, it was regrettable that the chapter did not include a general survey of the natural resources of the various countries of the world. The chapter should also have contained a detailed critical survey of United Nations activities and a definition of priority needs. For example, it was known that the under-developed countries, with a population representing approximately 70 per cent of the total world population, accounted for only 16 per cent of the world consumption of electric power. The shortage of electricity was a very serious obstacle to the industrialization of those countries, to the raising of their level of living, and to their social advancement. Many under-developed countries, in order to industrialize, had built thermal stations, with disastrous effects on their balance of payments. That state of affairs was usually not caused by any lack of natural resources, but by the inadequacy of preliminary studies and surveys.

5. A recent survey had shown that the fuel resources actually used in the world represented only about 10 per cent of existing resources. Even coal reserves were known only very approximately. More attention must, therefore, be given to geological exploration, particularly in the under-developed regions which were most promising from the standpoint of mining development.

6. The USSR had learned from experience that intensive geological surveys enabled a country to develop its resources methodically. There were no longer any empty spaces on the geological maps of the USSR. A geological survey covering 2 million square kilometres, made during the past two years, had led to the discovery of very large deposits of coal, petroleum and natural gas. In that way the USSR had acquired a wealth of experience which it was prepared to share with all countries that

might need it. Such assistance would be particularly useful since in many under-developed countries geological surveys were going forward at a very slow rate while needs were increasing very rapidly. In order to promote the industrialization of the under-developed countries, power resources should be developed as rapidly as possible, through bilateral assistance programmes as well as through the agency of United Nations bodies. United Nations objectives in the field of power resources would therefore have to be defined more clearly than they had been hitherto. In addition, the importance of water resources should be emphasized and the main policy lines in the matter clearly laid down.

7. The increase in the number of projects undertaken and in the number of experts sent on mission did not prove that United Nations activities had become more effective. On the contrary, several mistakes had been made. Owing to insufficient technical preparation, some projects were not bringing the beneficiary countries any immediate benefits. Thus, solar energy utilization, which offered very interesting possibilities for the future, was not yet economic and should be abandoned in favour of the development of other resources. In some instances, highly paid experts had been sent to certain countries without regard to experience previously acquired by similar missions in other countries. More care should be exercised, therefore, in selecting projects and in sending experts. In some cases, also, experts who did not have adequate qualifications and could not be really useful to the beneficiary countries were still being sent. The natural resources expert sent for two years to Ceylon and the group of water experts which had remained in Afghanistan for seven years were cases in point.

8. As more and more under-developed countries were requiring assistance in their over-all planning of the use of their resources, it was becoming necessary to ensure better co-ordination between the different projects, on the one hand, and between those projects and the general economic development of the recipient countries, on the other. In that connexion, it was satisfactory that three times more general economic development projects had been approved in 1960-1961 than in the previous year. It was undeniable that efforts had been made, but they were not enough, and there were still cases where unjustified expenditure was incurred, particularly in water resource development, because there was no settled over-all policy.

9. With technical assistance becoming increasingly complex, the best use must be made of the experience acquired in every country. One of the gravest errors of the United Nations was not to make full use of the experience gained by the socialist countries. For many missions, staff was recruited only from countries which were members of the western military or political alliances. That was true of the eight D-1 natural resources experts in the Natural Resources Development Group, the Bureau of Social Affairs, the Special Fund and the Water Resources Development Centre. The staff of those bodies should be reorganized on a more equitable geographical basis and a conference should be convened to bring together experts from the Resources and Transport Branch of the United Nations Secretariat and

experts from the socialist and other under-represented countries, to consider the United Nations work programme in the field of natural resources. There would be no need to recruit additional staff for that purpose, as the experts could be members of the United Nations staff.

10. The report on work being done in the field of non-agricultural resources rightly mentioned the Rome Conference on New Sources of Energy (E/3578, para. 37), but the conclusions it drew were erroneous: what was needed was not to replace the existing sources of energy by others, but rather to promote the development of the major conventional sources of energy in the under-developed countries.

11. More particularly the Secretariat should concentrate on developing the water resources of the under-developed countries, so as to improve the level of living of the population. Draft resolution E/L.948 made no reference to that need, but the Soviet delegation intended to submit an amendment to that effect.

12. The very limited activity of the Water Resources Development Centre and the slow progress achieved were attributable to the lack of co-ordination with the regional bodies and to the manner in which the Centre was organized. The Centre, indeed, revolved round a single person, who, despite his unquestionable capacity, would no longer be equal to his task if the United Nations intensified its activities in the field of water resource development. The Polish representative's proposal therefore seemed particularly apposite. The amalgamation of the Industrial Development Centre and the Water Resources Development Centre would give greater effectiveness to United Nations action for the industrial development of the under-developed countries; it would make it possible to strengthen the Water Resources Development Centre by reassigning staff available both at Headquarters and in the regional economic commissions; and, lastly, it would tighten the links between Headquarters, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies. There was no question of resuscitating the department which had existed three or four years previously, and had included an industrialization section, a natural resources section and a transport section; the new unified Centre would have greater responsibility and be more independent. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should be asked to examine the question. Some representatives feared that an amalgamation of the two Centres might be prejudicial to United Nations industrial development activities. Their fears were without foundation, for industrial development and water resource development were interrelated and both would profit from being studied together. For that reason, he trusted that the Polish representative's proposal would be given due consideration.

Mr. El-Farra (Jordan), Second Vice-President, took the Chair.

13. Mr. ALVAREZ OLLONIEGO (Uruguay) said that the Spanish version of the different reports on natural resources now before the Council had only just been circulated to delegations; for that reason, the technical departments of his Government had been unable to

appraise the work of the United Nations in that field. That was especially regrettable as Uruguay had always attached great importance to water resources and to the work of the United Nations in the field of non-agricultural resources. Uruguay had undertaken some important projects, such as the hydroelectric development of the Río Negro, some joint projects with Argentina, and the utilization of tidal land. However, like all small countries, it still needed external assistance.

14. South America was composed of countries with a wealth of natural resources that could still only be surmised. A great deal of work was required on both the national and the regional planes. The Latin American countries needed the assistance of the United Nations in drawing up national plans and regional programmes for the development of their natural resources which would enable them to raise the level of living of their peoples.

15. In his delegation's view, the Centre had done good work, in spite of its slender resources; he hoped that it would be able to broaden its activities.

16. Mr. RIFA'I (Jordan) said that he had been impressed by the quality of the two reports before the Council and by the great accomplishments reflected in them. The results achieved by the United Nations in the development of natural resources were encouraging for all countries which were fighting poverty and backwardness. The work of the Water Resources Development Centre was of special importance to Jordan. The competent Jordanian authorities had already carried out many programmes for the investigation and development of water resources; but much still remained to be done, for instance with regard to village water supply systems, irrigation, and the training of personnel. An inventory of Jordan's water resources must also be made, for which more investigation was necessary. Water resource development was therefore a priority item in Jordan's economic development programme, and the work already under way was being carried out with the assistance of the specialized agencies. In May 1961, the Special Fund had approved a major project for the surveying of ground-water resources. The International Development Association had granted a loan for the improvement of the water supply system of Amman. FAO was providing technical help in the form of experts and fellowships. Lastly, UNESCO had also offered a fellowship and WHO, too, had given assistance.

17. Jordan was therefore in a good position to appraise the work of the Centre and it whole-heartedly supported the proposal that the Centre should operate as a separate office with adequate staff, which would enable it to ensure better co-ordination and to take more effective action.

18. The Special Fund played a prominent role; since 1959 it had approved fifty-nine projects in the field of water resources and related activities. The second biennial report of the Water Resources Development Centre (E/3587) showed how many different projects the Fund had helped the Centre to undertake. That aspect of natural resources development would become increasingly impor-

tant, and the Jordanian delegation therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to review the present arrangements pertaining to the Centre. It endorsed the view of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination that the Centre should be independent and have a larger staff. The Centre should also draw up proposals for a priority programme of co-ordinated action in the water resources field, in co-operation with the other agencies concerned. The Jordanian delegation had joined the delegations of Denmark, India, Japan and the United States in co-sponsoring a draft resolution (E/L.945) which took account of those points. The sponsors of the draft resolution had considered the amendments proposed by France and Italy (E/L.950), the reasons for which they well understood. He believed that the two texts could be amalgamated in one draft resolution which, he hoped, would command the unanimous support of the Council.

19. Mrs. WRIGHT (Denmark) congratulated the Secretariat on the systematic and comprehensive report it had presented on the activities of the Water Resources Development Centre (E/3587). Observing that important conclusions emerged from the report, she said that the responsibilities of the Centre had expanded considerably during the past two years: one needed only to study the lists of projects of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance to realize that. The Danish delegation wished to stress once again, as it had done in the Economic Committee at the Council's twenty-ninth session, the importance of the development of water resources for general economic development. The Centre had an increasingly active and important part to play in that field. There were certain administrative problems to be solved, to which reference was made in paragraphs 11 to 14 of the report. Her delegation was inclined to agree in principle that the Centre should be independent, but it felt that the Advisory Committee on Co-ordination should explain its views on that question at the Council's thirty-fourth session. The Danish delegation also supported the suggestion that experts from the specialized agencies should be seconded to the Centre to assist it in its tasks.

20. Denmark was one of the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.945, which she recommended to the Council's approval. The Danish delegation would also support the draft resolution on work in the field of non-agricultural resources submitted by the United Kingdom and the United States (E/L.948).

21. Mr. KAKITSUBO (Japan) thought that the five-Power draft resolution on the Water Resources Development Centre (E/L.945), of which his delegation was a co-sponsor, needed little explanation. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had felt that two or three officials from the specialized agencies should be seconded to the Centre and one or two economists specializing in the development of natural resources recruited. That was a moderate request, and the five Powers asked the Council to approve it. They also requested that a priority programme of co-ordinated action should be drawn up by the Centre as soon as

possible and that a report containing such proposals should be submitted to the Council at its thirty-fifth session.

22. After consultation with the French and Italian delegations, which had submitted amendments (E/L.950), the sponsors of the draft resolution had decided to accept amendments 1 and 2 without modification.

23. In addition, the word "*Welcomes*" in operative paragraph 3 would be replaced by the word "*Notes*", and operative paragraph 4 would be revised to read:

"*Requests* the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to include in its report to the Council at its thirty-fourth session concrete proposals on the measures to be taken to that effect;".

24. On behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, he expressed the hope that the text as thus amended would be approved unanimously.

25. Mr. VIAUD (France) explained that his delegation had joined the Italian delegation in submitting certain amendments (E/L.950) because it had some difficulty in passing immediate judgement on the reports submitted by the Secretariat and on measures which should be taken to give effect to them. However, it had of course followed the Centre's activities with great interest and thought very highly of its work, and of its co-operation with the Special Fund in particular. The French delegation would certainly take an active part in the debate which was to take place at the Council's thirty-fourth session on the proposals of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination relating to the Centre's future work. The sponsors of draft resolution E/L.945 having been kind enough to make some entirely satisfactory changes in their text, France and Italy would support that draft resolution and withdraw their amendments (E/L.950).

26. Mr. PISA (Italy) thanked the five Powers for having taken into account his country's views and hoped that the revised text would meet with the approval of all members of the Council.

27. Mr. BENTLEY (United Kingdom) said that it was more essential now than ever before that all resources, including water resources, should be exploited in order to raise the living standards of an expanding world population. It was for that reason that the United Kingdom Government had supported the creation of the Water Resources Development Centre, whose work so far had fulfilled all expectations; its activities, particularly in the field of the development of ground water, would be of great use to all under-developed countries.

28. When the Centre was established it had been expected that it would be staffed from existing resources, with the occasional use of outside consultants. It now seemed the work had grown beyond that, and would continue to grow, making some reorganization necessary. The United Kingdom therefore supported the proposals set out in the second biennial report of the Centre (E/3587), while nevertheless hoping that any increases would be kept to an indispensable minimum and that

duplication would be avoided. A further necessity was the agreement of the specialized agencies to second to the Centre specialists who would continue to be paid by the agencies themselves.

29. The Polish delegation had proposed that the Water Resources Development Centre should be amalgamated with the Industrial Development Centre. The memorandum it had presented (E/L.951) did not immediately dispel the doubts suggested by that idea. Water was as essential to agriculture as it was to industry, and it would be unfortunate to attribute excessive importance to one of its applications at the expense of the other. Before considering any new steps, the results of the work of the expert group which was to meet to consider the possible reorganization of all Secretariat departments dealing with industrial development must be seen. In the meanwhile, the United Kingdom was ready to place at the service of the Water Resources Development Centre all the experience gained by the Hydraulics Research Section in the United Kingdom.

30. In view of the usefulness of the work being done in the field of non-agricultural resources, the United Kingdom delegation had joined the United States delegation in submitting draft resolution E/L.948, which he hoped would be adopted unanimously.

31. Mr. NATORF (Poland) said that the memorandum submitted by his delegation (E/L.951) contained nothing new, but drew the attention of members of the Council to some of the ideas the Polish delegation had already expressed on previous occasions. As those ideas were somewhat radical and their adoption would entail considerable changes in the structure of the Secretariat, the Polish delegation did not intend to put forward any formal proposal at the present time, but it hoped that a thorough study of the memorandum would convince members of the Council that its views were correct. Nevertheless, it would like to dispose of certain misapprehensions from the outset. The idea was not simply to amalgamate the Water Resources Development Centre with the Industrial Development Centre. What the Polish delegation wanted was the establishment of a centre which would deal not only with industrial development and water resources, but also with the development of all natural resources and energy resources. Some resources quite as important to the under-developed countries as water resources seemed to have been arbitrarily ignored and it might be that those countries would soon be calling for the establishment of several more centres. It was to avoid the confusion and complexity which would then result that the Polish delegation proposed the establishment of a single centre. While it was true that agriculture, too, benefited from the development of water resources, there was no doubt of the link between the exploitation of total resources and the industrial development which, it was now generally agreed, was essential to economic expansion as a whole. Moreover, the structure advocated by the Polish delegation already existed in the regional economic commissions. Since the question was in no way a political one, he hoped that it would receive the dispassionate and serious consideration it merited. The Polish delegation

reserved the right to submit formal proposals to the Economic and Social Council or to the General Assembly at a later date.

32. His delegation would, of course, vote in favour of the two draft resolutions; but it felt that those decisions were of a temporary nature and that the Council should later make a more thorough study of the present structure with a view to making any necessary changes, taking into account the Polish proposals and any other proposal which might be submitted.

33. Mr. WODAJO (Ethiopia) pointed out that an under-developed country which embarked on a vast programme of exploration for new natural resources always ran a serious risk of investing large sums in prospecting operations which would produce no result. It was also forced to seek technical and financial assistance from abroad in order to obtain the services of the necessary experts. Ethiopia, for instance, had had to apply to the Special Fund for assistance in making a comprehensive survey of the possibilities of industrial and agricultural development in one of its valleys. It had also concluded bilateral assistance agreements with the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. In addition, the United States had seconded personnel to the Institute of Cartography and Geology and to the water resources development services, headed by a small nucleus of Ethiopian technicians. That indicated the great importance which Ethiopia attached to United Nations activities connected with exploring and developing natural resources, particularly water resources.

34. He had been very impressed by the Polish delegation's case for the establishment of a single centre to deal with all natural resources and industrial development. If industrial development was to be successful, prior knowledge of all the resources available was essential. It was beyond question, therefore, that the activities of the Industrial Development Centre and of all the services engaged in surveys of natural resources should be closely linked. However, it was still too early to decide how far to go in establishing such a link. The same applied to the work of the Water Resources Development Centre, whose activities in the under-developed countries might on occasion have more immediate effects on agriculture than on industrial development. Nevertheless, it seemed desirable to establish close links between the two centres, and the regional economic commissions should become the main executive agents

for the work which the United Nations proposed to undertake. In conclusion, he paid tribute to the desire of the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.945 to intensify the activities of the Water Resources Development Centre, and said that he would vote in favour of their text.

35. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the following paragraph should be inserted after operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution E/L.948:

“ Considers it necessary that the United Nations activities in the field of natural energy resources should be concentrated mainly on providing assistance to less developed countries in developing those sources of energy which are of major importance for their development, including industrialization, and for the raising of the standard of living of their population.”

36. Mr. FINGER (United States of America) said he felt there was no need to remind the Council of his country's efforts to further the development of the natural resources of the under-developed countries. As was well known, the United States provided a large proportion of the resources of the Special Fund, as also of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association, bodies which had already applied thousands of millions of dollars to less developed countries for projects in that field. The United States delegation, on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution E/L.948, was prepared to accept the amendments proposed by the Soviet delegation.

37. The PRESIDENT, after drawing the Council's attention to the statement of the financial implications of the draft resolution (E/L.945/Add.1), put to the vote draft resolution E/L.945, as amended by the sponsors.

Draft resolution E/L.945, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

38. The PRESIDENT put to the vote draft resolution E/L.948, as amended by the addition of the paragraph proposed by the Soviet delegation.

Draft resolution E/L.948, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.