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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: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nepal, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Sudan, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

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

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

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Natural resources (E/3577, E/3578, E/3580, E/3587)

1. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that his delegation was in a position to participate in a discussion of the second biennial report of the Water Resources Development Centre (E/3587) and the report on work being done in the field of non-agricultural resources (E/3578). It was not yet ready to discuss the report on the United Nations Conference on New Sources of Energy (E/3577); France had taken an active part in that Conference and his delegation felt that the report deserved close study by the appropriate technical departments of the various Governments before it was considered by the Council. He proposed, therefore, that the report on that Conference should be deferred until the thirty-fourth session, when it could be considered under the agenda item "Questions relating to science and technology". His delegation was prepared for a discussion of the study entitled "Capital requirements of petroleum exploration and methods of financing" (E/3580), but as the

study had only just been made available in English he fully appreciated that other delegations might not be in so fortunate a position; that report too might therefore be postponed.

2. Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHY (India) endorsed the observations of the French representative and supported his proposal that the reports in question should be held over until the thirty-fourth session. In order to save time, however, a preliminary discussion of those two documents might usefully be held later in the current session.

3. Mr. PISA (Italy) and Mr. EL-FARRA (Jordan) supported the French representative's proposal.

4. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) supported the French proposal that consideration of the two reports should be postponed to the thirty-fourth session but he did not agree that they could simply be included under the agenda item "Questions relating to science and technology". He proposed that they should appear as a new sub-item.

5. He recalled that at the Council's thirty-second session an *ad hoc* working group had unexpectedly been set up, to which his delegation had had to assign one of its key members throughout the summer. The reports now before the Council were so clear that it seemed unlikely that a special working group would again have to be set up, but his delegation would like to know now if such a step was contemplated.

6. Mr. ALVAREZ OLLONIEGO (Uruguay) associated himself with the French representative's proposal concerning the two reports in question. He proposed that consideration of the report of the Water Resources Development Centre should likewise be postponed, since that document was not yet available in Spanish.

7. Mr. ROUANET (Brazil) supported the French representative's proposal but agreed with the Indian representative that a preliminary exchange of views on the reports in question might usefully take place later in the current session. With regard to the proposal that they should be included under the agenda item "Questions relating to science and technology", his delegation felt that the two reports went beyond those terms of reference; the petroleum study, in particular, dealt with political and economic issues as well as technical ones, as its title indicated.

8. Mr. NATORF (Poland) said that his delegation would not object to the proposal that consideration of the report on the United Nations Conference on New Sources of Energy and the petroleum study should be

postponed, although it much regretted that action on such important issues should be delayed. In the circumstances, however, his delegation felt it would be preferable to defer consideration of the whole of agenda item 8 rather than to discuss part of it now and part of it at a later session. His Government had approached the item as a whole and any observations his delegation might make concerning those two reports would tend to relate to the whole subject of natural resources.

9. M. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) endorsed the Polish representative's view that the whole of agenda item 8 should be postponed until the next session. At the same time it was most regrettable that such a step should be necessary, a situation for which the Secretariat must bear full responsibility. He agreed with the Indian representative that a preliminary discussion later in the current session might be useful, although such a discussion could be of a general nature only.

10. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) pointed out that the agenda for the thirty-fourth session was already expected to be heavy; if the whole of agenda item 8 were to be postponed until then, there was a danger that the Council might not be able to give it the full attention which its importance warranted. That being so, he felt that the Council should try to discuss at least part of the item at the current session. There was apparently no reason why the report on work being done in the field of non-agricultural resources (E/3578) could not be discussed now, and he was equally reluctant to see consideration of the second biennial report of the Water Resources Development Centre (E/3587) postponed. That report contained two important proposals which must be taken up as soon as possible: first, in the face of increasing indications that the original administrative set-up of the Centre might no longer be adequate, it was proposed to re-evaluate the present arrangements by considering in particular the possibility for the Centre to operate as a separate office with adequate staff. If any practical steps were to be taken in that direction during 1962, the Council must discuss its financial implications before the Council's Economic Committee met in the summer. Secondly, it was recognized in the report that the United Nations Development Decade would require a comprehensive examination of the complex array of problems in the field of water resources with a view to drawing up a priority programme of co-ordinated action for the coming decade. A tentative pre-plan of action was to be considered by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and a comprehensive report submitted to the Council. If the Council was to have that report before it at its thirty-fourth session, it must obviously take the appropriate action now.

11. He understood the Uruguayan delegation's difficulties but in view of the above considerations he appealed to the Uruguayan representative to reconsider his proposal that consideration of the report of the Water Resources Development Centre should be postponed.

12. Mr. WALKER (Australia) associated himself with the United States representative's appeal to the Uruguayan representative. The question of water re-

sources was one of overwhelming importance and he particularly endorsed the United States representative's observations that the financial implications of certain proposals in the second biennial report should be considered by the Council as a matter of urgency.

13. Mr. ALVAREZ OLLONIEGO (Uruguay) withdrew his proposal.

14. The PRESIDENT observed that there was a consensus of opinion in the Council that consideration of two of the documents submitted under agenda item 8, namely, the report on the United Nations Conference on New Sources of Energy (E/3577) and the study on the capital requirements of petroleum exploration and methods of financing (E/3580), should be postponed until the thirty-fourth session. He proposed that the Council should leave the question of their place in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session until that subject came to be discussed under item 17.

It was so decided.

15. Mr. KAKITSUBO (Japan) said that the three reports contained in documents E/3578, E/3587 and E/3577 showed that the United Nations had made an important contribution towards the accelerated development of natural resources in the backward countries of the world. The work being done by the Secretariat on non-agricultural resources was extremely useful and should be continued. The United Nations would thus be able to keep abreast of technical advances in that field while meeting the requests of Member States for specific studies and assisting them in drafting their development programmes. In view of the Secretariat's already heavy work-load, his delegation hoped that the Council would not, at the current session, request an additional report on non-agricultural resources but that further reports would be submitted at later sessions, possibly on a biennial basis.

16. The activities of the Water Resources Development Centre had been increasing, mainly because of the expanding role played by the Special Fund in water development, the demands of newly independent countries and the growing importance of regional and international projects. His delegation was glad to see that all government requests for projects related to water development which were retained for consideration by the Special Fund were directly communicated to the Centre for comment and advice. Such a procedure would intensify the Centre's work and enhance its prestige. The position of the Centre as the main body responsible for the exchange of information and the formulation of United Nations policy in the field of water resources should be strengthened. It should operate as a separate office and should enjoy the full co-operation of the various organizations concerned with water problems both within and outside the United Nations. His delegation agreed with the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination that all necessary financial and administrative arrangements should be made to facilitate the independence of the Centre in its operations.

17. The time had come for the specialized agencies co-operating with the Centre to share its expenses. For

example, they should pay the salaries of any of their staff who were seconded to the Centre. It was to be hoped that that subject would be discussed at the next session of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination so that the Council could receive a report on it at its thirty-fourth session.

18. It was satisfactory to note that the Centre intended to meet the challenge of the United Nations Development Decade. His delegation supported the proposal to establish, through inter-agency consultations, a tentative pre-plan of action. It assumed that a report on that subject would be submitted to the Council at its thirty-fourth session.

19. The biennial report emphasized the importance of the development of international river basins. Japan had actively participated in the Mekong project and at the eighteenth session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East had formally announced an additional contribution of \$180,000. His Government would like to pay a tribute to the United Nations and the specialized agencies for their continuous support of that challenging project.

20. Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHY (India) congratulated the Secretariat, the specialized agencies and the regional economic commissions on their work in the field of natural resources. His Government attached the greatest importance to the subject because the exploitation of natural resources was basic to the development process. Before planned development had started in India, there had been considerable exploration and utilization of natural resources. Nevertheless, the country had had to face acute shortages of power, irrigation water and minerals during the last decade. The Indian Parliament had decided to give the Government the primary responsibility for surveying and exploiting minerals, although the private sector could continue the activities it had already begun and, where reasonable, expand. In a democratic and federal system, it was not enough to achieve a respectable growth index for the country as a whole; the benefits of development must be spread over the widest possible area. Such a policy required the simultaneous adoption of two or more schemes with different yield potentials.

21. The Government had had considerable success in recent years in the development of resources, but much remained to be done. New power projects had to be undertaken, particularly in the field of hydro-electric energy. His country welcomed the assistance given by the Special Fund in the survey of potential hydro-electric sites which was now being conducted in India and which might establish the pattern of hydro-electric development for some years to come. There might, however, be limitations to the amount of power that could be obtained from that source. India was already turning towards atomic energy and was particularly interested in the development of other sources of power such as those described in the reports before the Council. His delegation hoped that the United Nations would increase its work in that field.

22. In mineral development, as in power, India had achieved significant successes, but it still had a long way

to go. Coal was a particular problem and other minerals gave rise to difficulties hardly less acute. Those problems were an inevitable part of economic growth and were being faced by most of the developing countries.

23. India appreciated the facilities provided by the United Nations family for the development of non-agricultural resources from the stage of surveying and mapping right through to the ultimate stage of production. The seminars on petroleum development and energy resources had been particularly useful; they often provided the means of persuading Governments to take the necessary action.

24. The work done on water resources was equally impressive. For India, water was a vital problem whether it was a question of harnessing rivers for irrigation purposes, raising sub-soil water or supplying towns and villages. India was deeply interested in the desalinization of water. The day was not far off when that method would have a practical application in India and elsewhere. His delegation was also interested in the suggestions made for the reorganization of the Water Resources Development Centre and especially in their practical implications, financial and otherwise.

25. Mr. VIAUD (France) felt that the report on work being done in the field of non-agricultural resources (E/3578) and the report of the Water Resources Development Centre (E/3587) were very useful. It was regrettable that there had been no time for them to be studied by experts within his Government. The work of the Centre had grown mainly because the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance had expanded their activities in the field of water resources. The Centre had served as an effective executing agency for the Special Fund and the projects it had assisted had not been subject to the same delays as certain others. Not all the projects concerned with water had been assigned by the Special Fund to the Water Resources Development Centre. Some, particularly those connected with irrigation, had been allocated to FAO. He would like to know whether the Centre was informed in such cases and whether it assisted other specialized agencies in projects for which it was not the executing agency. There was nothing in the report to clarify that important problem of co-ordination.

26. The annex to the report of the Centre listed the conferences, working parties and seminars which had dealt with the problem of water resources during 1960 and 1961. The Centre had presumably organized some of those meetings; in others it had merely participated. The information provided was somewhat scanty. His delegation would like to know more about the results of those deliberations.

27. The developments of common interest described in chapter III of the report were of interest to many organizations. The Water Resources Development Centre had the special responsibility of co-ordinating such projects, particularly those like the Lower Mekong scheme, which interested not only the riparian countries but also the whole region. According to paragraph 64 of the report on non-agricultural resources (E/3578), a representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had

attended a meeting of hydraulic engineers on the Niger River project. His delegation hoped that the Council would be told more about those discussions and what they had achieved.

28. With regard to the suggested administrative changes in the Water Resources Development Centre, his delegation could only reserve its position, partly because he had not yet received instructions from his Government and partly because the account given in the report did not provide a full enough picture of the activities of the Centre and its requirements.

29. Mr. NATORF (Poland) observed that the report on work being done in the field of non-agricultural resources (E/3578) and the second biennial report of the Water Resources Development Centre (E/3587) raised not only technical problems but also problems of administration. In regard to the latter, he noted that United Nations activities in the field of water research were closely linked to its efforts in the field of industrial development both substantively, since an adequate water supply was a prerequisite for later industrial development, and administratively, since the problem of water resources formed part of the work of the Committee for Industrial Development. Moreover, the regional economic commissions, especially the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the Economic Commission for Africa, had set up committees for the study of both questions. He therefore thought that the Council should consider the possibility of making radical changes in the headquarters machinery for the study of those two problems. The structure of the Secretariat and of the other United Nations bodies operating in the field should reflect the natural connexion between the two problems. As the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs had stated at the previous meeting, structural changes were essential if the Secretariat was to cope with the problems that would arise in connexion with the United Nations Development Decade. In addition, a rationalization of the work of the United Nations in both fields would eliminate duplication and disorder, especially in regard to the preparation of documents, and would make possible a more economical use of existing resources. The Water Resources Development Centre itself had raised the question in paragraph 14 of its report, in which it had proposed a re-evaluation of the present arrangements. Lastly, reports prepared by highly qualified technicians should be considered by other equally well qualified technicians.

30. He therefore proposed that the Industrial Development Centre should be combined with the Water Resources Development Centre to form a single agency to be headed by an under-secretary and given a wider mandate which would include problems of industrial development, natural resources and water resources. Moreover, within the Secretariat itself the Division of Industrial Development might be combined with the Resources and Transport Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, for the same reasons. His delegation would not press for a decision on the matter at the current session but he would welcome even the preliminary views of members of the Council on the

points he had raised. While his delegation was prepared to accept amendments to its proposals, it considered it essential that the existing structures should be changed.

31. Mr. WALKER (Australia) thought that the work being done by the United Nations in the field of non-agricultural resources constituted a kind of framework for other more specialized topics and was indispensable to the entire process of economic development. The Secretariat's report on the subject (E/3578) constituted an impressive record of the useful contributions it had made to the study of the problems of natural resources, especially as they affected the under-developed countries. Australia considered it essential in development planning to make full use of the possibilities of mapping and surveying, for it realized that such new techniques as aerial surveys could enable the under-developed countries to make an accurate assessment of their national patrimony as the basis for their development planning. In the fields of geology and mining, too, it was remarkable how many hitherto unsuspected natural resources had been revealed through systematic exploration and how useful United Nations assistance had been in the evaluation of mineral deposits and in the clarification of such related problems as that of transport.

32. Australia, like India, attached great importance to the development of new sources of energy; it had in former years done much work in the harnessing of wind power and, more recently, of solar energy.

33. His country, which in some regions suffered from a chronic dearth of water and in others from an overabundance of it at the wrong times of the year, had had long experience with the problems of the location of water resources and their conservation. It had recently established a large hydro-electric plant in the Snowy Mountains for the purpose of developing electricity and large-scale irrigation. It was eager to help its neighbours to solve their problems of water supply and therefore actively supported the work of the Water Resources Development Centre. Moreover, under the Colombo Plan it had trained a number of young Asians in water research and would welcome further requests for assistance in that field. At the fifteenth session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East it had offered its assistance in a preliminary exploration of the Lower Mekong River Basin, particularly with regard to geological surveys of dam sites.

34. While he was sympathetic to the proposal in paragraph 14 of document E/3587 for establishing the Water Resources Development Centre as a separate office, he felt that, in view of the organizational problems that would entail, particularly in regard to situation, staffing and financing, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions should give the matter careful consideration with a view to keeping the additional cost to a minimum. The Polish proposal for combining the Water Resources Development Centre with the Industrial Development Centre deserved very careful study on the part of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee and he hoped that the question would be the subject of further discussion.

35. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) said that he had been impressed by the quality of the two reports before the Council, which showed how much a few dedicated and highly qualified individuals could accomplish.

36. The second biennial report of the Water Resources Development Centre (E/3587) showed that the Centre had made great progress after a slow start and that it had greatly assisted the work of the Special Fund. It was particularly encouraging to note that the Special Fund was now contributing to forty-one projects in the field of water resources and that an increasing volume of its assistance was being channelled through the Centre. The success of the multi-purpose Mekong programme, which had been truly miraculous, had shown what projects of that type could do, not only to develop the economy of the region but also to contribute to the pacification of the area. There could be no question that the work being done by the United Nations in the field of water development was as important as anything else being done for the economic development of the under-developed countries. The many regional and international meetings which the Centre had organized and the common studies it had undertaken with other agencies showed that the Centre had an important role to play as a catalytic element in securing the co-operation of other bodies, particularly the regional economic commissions. His delegation unreservedly supported the proposal that the Centre should be given a more important place in the Secretariat as a separate office with an adequate staff. On the other hand, while he agreed with the Polish representative that structural changes were needed, he had some misgivings about the latter's proposal that the Industrial Development Centre should be combined with the Water Resources Development Centre; such a step would merely decrease the effectiveness of both bodies and might result in inadequate attention being paid to such other aspects of water resources development as agriculture and health, which were not directly connected with industrialization. Moreover, the two Centres were already combined in the sense that they were both parts of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

37. He endorsed the proposal in paragraph 17 of the

Centre's report that a tentative pre-plan of action on water problems should be established and he hoped that, despite the extra burden the project would place on the Secretariat, the latter would submit a comprehensive report on the subject to the Council.

38. With regard to document E/3578, his country heartily sympathized with the expectations of the less developed countries in their quest for comprehensive resource development and felt that whatever could be done to survey the resources of such countries would help towards their achievement of viable and strong economies enabling them to raise the levels of living of their people. His Government took a particular interest in the problem of topical mapping; while it realized that that was a costly process, it hoped that more could be done in connexion with the preparation of general reconnaissance maps, which could yield valuable data for the development of natural resources. His delegation also attached particular importance to ground-water exploration, which had been combined with the search for minerals in three Special Fund projects, and it welcomed the multi-purpose effect of such projects. It looked forward to the completion of the survey now in progress on the potential economic applications of demineralization of sea or brackish water in arid or semi-arid areas of under-developed countries experiencing fresh-water shortages; the United States Department of the Interior was engaged in research on the technical and economic aspects of that question and would make the results of its studies available to the under-developed countries. The other activities referred to in paragraphs 67 to 70 of the report were very encouraging, but much remained to be done and there was an urgent need for the co-ordination of the increasing efforts being made in the field and for an improvement in the machinery for the dissemination of scientific and engineering data.

39. The United States Government had been much encouraged by the two reports and would do everything in its power to assist the Council and the Secretariat in their efforts to develop the natural resources of the under-developed countries.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.