



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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President: Mr. Milan KLUSÁK
(Czechoslovakia).

Present:

Representatives of the following States, members of the Council: Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, France, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Iran, Kuwait, Libya, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela.

Observers for the following Member States: Brazil, Indonesia, Netherlands, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

The representative of the following specialized agency: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

AGENDA ITEM 20

Applications and reapplications of non-governmental organizations for consultative status (continued) (E/L.1159/Rev.1)

1. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) introduced his country's revised draft resolution (E/L.1159/Rev.1) and said that even though the language of the draft was clear, he would like to stress certain important points.

2. In the first place, the draft resolution was in no wise intended to eliminate effective organizations whose actions were strictly confined to their proper functions, nor was it intended to reduce the number of those organizations. There was likewise no intention of criticizing them. As to the positive aspect of the draft resolution, the basic purpose was to preserve the universality and dignity of the United Nations and to ensure that the non-governmental organizations respected both the objectives of the consultative status which had been conferred on them and the purposes of the United Nations Charter.

3. In that regard, the definition given in Economic and Social Council resolution 288 B (X) was not sufficient, explicit, particularly in so far as the distinction made between categories A and B was concerned. That resolution had been drawn up a number of years ago at a time when the situation had been different; today, there was a need for clearly

specifying the criteria by which it would be possible to select from among the various organizations those whose activities corresponded exactly with the aims being sought. With regard to category A, the organizations to be selected must be those that had a genuine interest in the essential activities of the Council. As could be demonstrated by a few examples, that procedure was not being followed at the present time. Thus, the World Veterans Federation and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers should not be included in category A. In regard to category B, paragraph 16 (b) of resolution 288 B (X) specified that the organizations in question must be specifically concerned with only a few of the fields of activity covered by the Council. That definition was too vague, too feeble and too limited; it was hard to understand why, for example, the Associated Country Women of the World should belong to that category. As the same was true of many other organizations currently included in the category B list, a comprehensive review of that resolution with a view to its revision had become imperative.

4. He accordingly suggested that a special committee should be established for the purpose of determining the various categories, the criteria to be applied and the procedure to be followed for the granting of consultative status. Although he had proposed a committee of fifteen members, he was open to other suggestions and would, moreover, not object to the retention of the present committee of thirteen members. What really mattered was that the committee should effectively carry out the tasks assigned to it. The primary concern must be to safeguard the prestige of the United Nations and, specifically, of the Council. In that connexion, the revelations recently made concerning certain organizations had deeply disturbed him.

5. Having thus explained the general purposes of the draft resolution, he then turned to some of the specific proposals which it contained. Operative paragraphs 1 (a) and (b) stressed the need for distinguishing the importance between category A and all other categories and for determining the criteria to be followed in the selection of the organizations. He pointed out, in particular, that category A was much too broad; the list should be drawn up on a more rational basis. Operative paragraph 1 (c) was concerned with the nature of the procedure to be followed. The present procedure was unsatisfactory, and there was a particular need to give careful consideration to the activities of the non-governmental organizations and the manner in which those organizations were financed. The submission of memoranda would be very helpful in that regard. Although there was no guarantee that the memoranda would contain all the information that was desired, the organizations could always be asked to provide more precise information on particular points.

Operative paragraph 1 (d) envisaged the possibility of requesting the organizations to make a financial contribution. While it appeared difficult at first sight to determine which organizations would be able to aid the United Nations financially, it should prove possible, after some reflection, to devise a suitable procedure. That suggestion affected not only the international organizations but also the national organizations enjoying the privileges conferred upon them by their consultative status. The latter quite often misused those privileges, and that was especially disconcerting in view of their association with the Office of Public Information. Operative paragraph 1 (e) recommended certain measures with regard to the organizations having received financial assistance directly or indirectly from the intelligence agencies of certain States. He was in no way blaming those agencies, for they were simply doing their duty, but he was disturbed by the attitude of the organizations which had accepted their aid. Whether their action had been wilful or imprudent, the fact remained that they had impaired the character of their functions. The Economic and Social Council must there address itself to that question. The ideas expressed in operative paragraph 1 (f) were not concerned so much with action to be taken immediately as with the principle that was involved, namely, that the Council would, as appropriate, consider the possibility of suspending the organizations whose activities were not in conformity with the Council's aims. The text of that paragraph, being very flexible, gave the special committee a free hand to study the principle involved and examine the ways in which it could be applied.

6. Turning to operative paragraph 2 (a), he noted that the primary reason why non-governmental organizations were associated with the Office of Public Information was to promote the objectives of the Office. Although most of those organizations had been conscientious in the performance of their task, some of them had acted otherwise and had thus discredited their colleagues. The latter organizations should be excluded. With regard to operative paragraph 2 (b), he emphasized that there should be a more balanced representation of the organizations associated with the Office of Public Information. At the present time, for example, the African-American organizations were very poorly represented, and that situation should be remedied. Operative paragraph 3 proposed that the activities and nature of all non-governmental organizations associated with the United Nations should be periodically reviewed. That was a task for the General Assembly, and there seemed to be no need to make provision for any special procedure in that regard. As to operative paragraph 4, the task to be accomplished was admittedly quite substantial; it was not, however, insurmountable, and he felt that the special committee should be able, as requested, to report to the Council not later than at its forty-fourth session.

7. He emphasized, in conclusion, that what mattered most was not so much the adoption of the text of the draft resolution in so far as its form was concerned, but, rather, respect for the very worth-while ideas expressed in the draft resolution.

8. Sir Edward WARNER (United Kingdom) said that, while recognizing that the present system was imper-

fect, he doubted whether the time was ripe for revising it. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania who, like himself, had attended the meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, knew how tight the time-table of conferences and meetings was and was surely aware of the urgency of other programmes which were of particular importance to the developing countries.

9. He felt, in particular, that it would not be desirable to create a new special committee of fifteen members to consider the present situation with regard to non-governmental organizations. The membership of the existing committee had only last year been enlarged from seven to thirteen, in order to give it a better geographical balance. Concerning the tasks to be entrusted to the committee, he pointed out that a reclassification of the organizations had been effected as recently as 1963 in council resolution 973 (XXXVI). He therefore wondered whether it was really necessary to undertake the very considerable work that that represented. The draft resolution also proposed a review of the criteria governing the admission of non-governmental organizations to consultative status. In his delegation's view, it was not a revision of the criteria that was needed, but their firm application.

10. Mr. VARELA (Panama) said that it was not his intention to analyse the substance of the draft resolution, but to raise a point of order under rule 49 of the Council's rules of procedure. He recalled that at the 1475th meeting, which had been devoted to the Council's agenda, the representative of France had pointed out that the draft resolution had not been taken up at the present session because its consideration was not in order. His own delegation entirely shared that view, since consideration of the draft was not in conformity with any established rule. Rule 14 of the Council's rules of procedure provided that at the beginning of each regular session the Council should adopt its agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda; rule 17 stated that only urgent and important items should be added to the agenda during the session. In view of those provisions, the draft resolution could not be considered at the present stage. However, the Tanzanian delegation, which had shown such interest in the matter, could propose that it should be taken up at the Council's summer session under a new agenda item entitled "Comprehensive review of the principles and criteria governing the granting of consultative status to non-governmental organizations". As the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania had said, the draft resolution proposed a comprehensive study of those criteria; but no provision for anything of that sort had been made in the agenda of the present session.

11. He reserved the right to comment on the substance of the draft resolution at the appropriate time and, for the moment, ventured to raise a point of order for the reasons he had mentioned. He left it to the President to rule on the motion, and he himself would abide by that ruling.

12. Mr. CHAMFOR (Cameroon) said that, while he shared the views of the representative of Panama, he would like to take up some of the questions raised by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania. The draft resolution suggested that non-gov-

ernmental organizations should make some financial contribution to United Nations activities. In that case, they should be able to express their views on those activities; delegations should therefore consult their Governments on the matter. With regard to the association of some organizations with the Office of Public Information, it was difficult to discuss that matter without seeking first to define what the information services in question consisted of. That question could not be answered without a substantive examination, which would be possible only at a later session.

13. Mr. JURZA (Czechoslovakia) pointed out that the draft resolution submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania did in fact relate to an agenda item. Part of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/4321) was devoted to the subject dealt with in the draft resolution. There had been no objection to consideration of that part of the report, and he could not see therefore why the Council should decline to consider the draft resolution before it. He was in favour of such consideration and hoped that a decision would be taken to that effect.

14. Mr. FORSHELL (Sweden) said that, while he did not wish to go into the details of the Panamanian representative's arguments, he thought that that representative's opposition to the draft resolution was based mainly on the magnitude of the proposed programme. For his own part, he felt that most of the questions raised in the draft resolution were pertinent and of great interest; nevertheless, in practical terms, it would be preferable not to do too much at once, given the very limited time available. Consequently, the questions should be considered in the order of their urgency, the most important being tackled first.

15. Mr. VARELA (Panama) said that his delegation was convinced of the soundness of its arguments and therefore requested the President, under rule 49 of the rules of procedure, to rule on its point of order. It would not, however, appeal against the President's ruling if the President felt that the item could be taken up. It reserved the right to speak on the draft resolution before the Council at a later stage.

16. The PRESIDENT said that, while he fully understood the fears of the Panamanian delegation, a negative decision could equally create an awkward precedent. He consequently suggested that the consideration of the draft resolution submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania should be continued.

It was so decided.

17. Mr. FORSHELL (Sweden) said that his delegation agreed with the principle of a comprehensive review of the situation in order to determine whether it was the result of shortcomings in resolution 288 B (X). As the Tanzanian delegation was aware, its evaluation of the situation was not fully shared by the Swedish delegation. That evaluation, although useful, covered too broad a field, which should be narrowed in order to ensure greater effectiveness.

18. As far as the draft resolution itself was concerned, it should be pointed out that the purpose of consultative status was not simply to give non-governmental organizations certain advantages and privileges but to enable the United Nations to profit from their exper-

ience. That idea should therefore appear in the preamble of the draft resolution. As for the body which was to study the criteria to be applied, his delegation thought that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations would be the best suited to undertake that task. In so doing, it could also take into account the views of the observers for Member States.

19. With regard to the criteria established in resolution 288 B (X), the discussions on town twinning and the International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation had shown them to be inadequate. That was, therefore, the most important question and the one to which the greatest attention should be given. The problem of financing in regard to non-governmental organizations was not so urgent and could be taken up in due course by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

20. Mr. NASINOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he agreed with the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania and Sweden that the question of the criteria to be applied in the granting of consultative status and the withdrawal of such status in the case of certain organizations constituted problems of great urgency.

21. As a member of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the Soviet delegation shared the views of the representatives who believed that the study which preceded the granting of consultative status was now very inadequate. That state of affairs was mainly the result of changes in the composition and functions of the Committee which, when it had been a smaller body, had had practical instruments at its disposal, the present procedures not then having existed. The possibility of three watertight categories could not of course be ruled out, but, as a matter of first concern, the existing but outdated criteria must be properly defined and must be based on the functions of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. The definition of the criteria was particularly important, since the General Assembly would have to use them in deciding which non-governmental organizations should be invited to participate in the International Conference on Human Rights, that matter having been referred to it by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference.

22. There were a number of things to be said about the non-governmental organizations already admitted to consultative status. First, several of them had been merged with other organizations or had simply disappeared; others had always played so inactive a role in regard to the United Nations that their presence on the list of organizations with consultative status was, to say the least, surprising; others, again, pursued objectives contrary to those of the United Nations and sowed discord between States; and still others, as recent events had shown, received financial support from bodies like the United States Central Intelligence Agency. In his delegation's view, those facts simply showed that it was time to consider a reclassification of non-governmental organizations. In any event, since a number of those organizations undeniably played a positive role, such a reclassification would concern only some of them. It might be recalled, in that regard, that a re-examination of the criteria used had likewise been envisaged by the Committee on

Non-Governmental Organizations itself. The Committee stated in its report that there had been a strong feeling among some delegations that the criteria laid down by the Council in its resolution 288 B (X) were somewhat outmoded and did not meet the present needs of the international community (E/4321, para. 39).

23. His delegation was ready to accept either of the two solutions proposed by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania with regard to the committee mentioned in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution of the United Republic of Tanzania (E/L.1159/Rev.1). At the same time, it would prefer the present Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be enlarged. The proposed committee's functions were stated objectively in the draft resolution submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania.

24. Operative paragraph 2 was particularly important: the national and international non-governmental organizations associated with the Office of Public Information were in fact in a false position, since 101 out of the 103 organizations in question were United States organizations and the remaining two were Canadian. Those organizations should be more representative of Member States, and, in particular, of the socialist States. There again, criteria for such association should be clearly defined. The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania was therefore quite in order in raising that question.

25. Operative paragraph 3 was equally important. Since the Economic and Social Council reopened the question of a periodic examination of the nature and activities of all non-governmental organizations associated with the United Nations and drew the General Assembly's attention to it, the Assembly would have to make a full study of the matter.

26. In his delegation's view, the draft resolution submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania filled a need and he would vote for it.

27. Mr. ATTIGA (Libya) thanked the President and the representative of Panama for making it possible to avoid a long procedural debate, and noted with pleasure that the Council was in agreement on the need to revise the list of non-governmental organizations in consultative status. The only reservations made were concerned with who would carry out the review and when.

28. The question of which body should examine the criteria should not be difficult to solve, since the Tanzanian delegation was ready to have the work done by the present Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. Where the date was concerned, the United Kingdom representative had been right in saying that that Council's agenda was very heavy, but the draft resolution submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania asked the proposed committee to report to the Council not later than at its forty-fourth session. All the Council needed to do, therefore, was to authorize the committee to begin its review.

29. Some delegations had stated that a stricter application of criteria would suffice; in his own delegation's view, the number of non-governmental organizations given consultative status showed that, on the contrary, there was no option but to revise those criteria. Their stricter application would in fact necessitate reconsid-

ering the position of organizations which now enjoyed consultative status.

30. He supported the draft resolution of the United Republic of Tanzania, which made a positive contribution to the debate, and he hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

31. Mr. PARRY (Canada) agreed with the President that the draft resolution submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania was entirely relevant to the agenda item and he was not opposed to a comprehensive examination of the criteria which should govern the granting of consultative status to non-governmental organizations. However, the draft resolution raised a question of priorities. In his view, while the proposed review was certainly important, it was in no way urgent. Moreover, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was perfectly capable of carrying it out, so that there was no need to set up a special committee.

32. In conclusion, he remarked that the Council should set an example to its subsidiary organs in choosing priorities. It should therefore confine its activities to the most urgent drafts and proposals and, if possible, postpone consideration of the Tanzanian draft until its forty-fourth session.

33. Mr. VARELA (Panama) remarked that, having accepted the President's ruling, his delegation failed to see why other delegations had reopened the matter.

34. As far as the draft resolution of the United Republic of Tanzania was concerned, he agreed in principle to the proposed review. At the same time, for procedural as well as for substantive reasons, he would be unable to vote for the draft. As a member of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, his delegation felt that in voting for the text it would be recognizing that that Committee's work had been futile.

35. As the Council was aware, the special committee of fifteen members proposed by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania would raise insurmountable difficulties as regards geographical distribution. Moreover, the draft submitted by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania would entrust to that committee functions which, under Council resolution 288 B (X), were those of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. That resolution stated that the Committee might review from time to time the list of non-governmental organizations included in categories A and B and that it might make recommendations regarding the inclusion or exclusion of organizations from the register, as it deemed appropriate. It would therefore be strange, to say the least, for a member of that Committee to vote for the establishment of the proposed special committee.

36. Some representatives had recalled that at the last session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations some delegations had recommended that the Council should reconsider the matter on an urgent basis at its forthcoming session. While that sentence occurred in the Committee's report, he pointed out that it ended with the words: "in order to arrange that clear directives be given to the Commit-

tee" (E/4321, para. 39). It was therefore not surprising that the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania did not have any firm views as to which organ should carry out the review he proposed; he was perfectly aware that those functions continued to belong to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. However, even if the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania accepted the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations as the reviewing body, some parts of his draft were superfluous and not conducive to good work. That the criteria laid down in resolution 288 B (X) did not tend to conform to the realities of contemporary experience in the international community was an odd statement. It would be simpler to say that they no longer conformed to those realities. Furthermore, the Tanzanian draft called for a review of all those non-governmental organizations which had received financial assistance directly or indirectly from the intelligence agencies of certain States; in the Panamanian delegation's view, the sources of financing of all the non-governmental organizations ought to be looked into. In the interests of fairness and objectivity, therefore, the wording should be made all-embracing.

37. Unless the draft resolution submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania was amended, particularly as to the organ which would carry out the proposed review, his delegation would be unable to vote for it.

38. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) welcomed the agreement which seemed to exist regarding the need to review the criteria governing the granting to non-governmental organizations of consultative status with the Council. It was important that the Council would have the benefit of the participation of the non-governmental organizations. Many of them had performed outstanding services by closely following the work of the Council and its organs, publicizing their decisions and recommendations throughout the world and offering them suggestions which were sometimes very useful. He agreed, however, that in many instances the consultative provisions established many years previously by a committee of which he had been Chairman had not produced the desired results. For example, many of the organizations in the three categories had done nothing in the way on constructive participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. In addition, experience had shown that the criteria did not make an adequate distinction between the three categories of status and, in particular, between categories A and B; it was therefore desirable, firstly, that the criteria should be redefined and, secondly, that the status of organizations which had already been granted consultative status should be reviewed in the light of the new definition.

39. The draft resolution submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania was thus useful and timely. However, his delegation would like to suggest certain amendments.



40. It would be useful to insert at the beginning of the text of the draft resolution a paragraph stating the importance of consultative status and the contributions that non-governmental organizations could make towards the work of the United Nations.

41. The third preambular paragraph could be given a more positive wording through the introduction of the concept of non-interference by Governments in the activities of non-governmental organizations.

42. The various sub-paragraphs of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution could be regrouped in two paragraphs in order to indicate that the task was to be divided into two parts. In his delegation's view, furthermore, the task could very well be carried out by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, which was now composed of thirteen members equitably representing all geographical regions and possessing the necessary experience.

43. Operative paragraph 1, concerning the first part of the work to be carried out, would enumerate the tasks described in sub-paragraphs (a), (c), (d) and (f) of operative paragraph 1 of the Tanzanian draft resolution, together with operative paragraph 4. That first part of the work could, in his view, be completed in four or five days by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, without an excessive increase in work for delegations or the Secretariat.

44. Operative paragraph 2, as proposed by his delegation, would group together the tasks to be performed by the Committee following the approval of its report on criteria by the Council, namely, those tasks described in sub-paragraphs (b) and (e) of operative paragraph 1 of the Tanzanian draft. He suggested that sub-paragraph (e) should be amended to indicate that what was important above all was to avoid situations in which non-governmental organizations were subject to influence from Governments, whatever the nature of that influence.

45. Operative paragraph 2 of the Tanzanian draft would become operative paragraph 3, and the United States delegation proposed that sub-paragraph (a) should be amended so as to avoid a lengthy and unnecessary research project, in view of the fact that a report on the actual procedures used in associating national and international organizations with the Office of Public Information was what was being sought.

46. With regard to operative paragraph 3, he was afraid that it would give a very heavy task to the General Assembly, whose agenda was always extremely full. He would like to see that paragraph deleted.

47. In conclusion, he wished to stress the importance of the relationships between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations which, through their consultative status with the Council and their association with the Office of Public Information, represented one of the best means of communication with the "peoples of the United Nations" which had proclaimed the Charter. He hoped that the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania could accept his suggestions, as they would enable his delegation to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

48. Mr. JURZA (Czechoslovakia) acknowledged that some of the provisions of resolution 288 B (X), which the Council had adopted seventeen years earlier, had been rendered obsolete by changes in the composition of the United Nations and of its organs and in the direction of its activities and methods. His delegation

therefore felt that the time had come to re-examine the provisions of that resolution. Besides, rules were not everything and experience showed that the provisions in question had not been properly applied in practice, so that the system of consultative relations with the non-governmental organizations was not even consistent with the purposes of the resolution in force. Consultative status had often been accorded almost automatically, without proper regard to the criteria stated in the resolution and without any subsequent verification of the use made of that status. There were so many organizations on the register that it was impossible for the Secretariat to maintain steady contact with them. A large number of organizations with category B status differed widely as to the nature of their activities and their scope and were of only marginal interest to the United Nations. Furthermore, the list of organizations with consultative status, and particularly those in category B, left much to be desired as regards equitable representation of all countries regardless of their economic, social and political systems. The great majority of those organizations had a Western bias and included associations whose members were recruited in the developed capitalist countries. Some members of the Council had for years been pursuing a policy of granting consultative status wholesale to such organizations, while denying the same right to other important international organizations such as the Women's International Democratic Federation and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, which had only just obtained that status. In the selection of non-governmental organizations, the Council thus appeared to apply a criterion which was not contained in resolution 288 B (X) and which constituted a flagrant violation of the provisions of that resolution and of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

49. The imbalance naturally encouraged the suspicion that the non-governmental organizations enjoying consultative status were being exploited for the interests of a single group of States; far from promoting confidence and full co-operation between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, it needlessly hampered the Council in its work.

50. The Czechoslovak delegation therefore considered that the situation called for an urgent examination of the procedure for granting consultative status and for a stricter application of the principle of equitable representation, which was indispensable if the universality of the Organization was to be ensured. It therefore welcomed the draft resolution submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania, the provisions of which should enable the Council to solve the problem.

51. The Czechoslovak delegation was not entirely surprised at the recent disclosure concerning the financing by the Central Intelligence Agency of a number of non-governmental organizations, or at the number of those organizations. In fact, it believed that they merely represented the visible part of an iceberg. However, it was disturbed over the possible effects of those disclosures on the Council's relations with the organizations involved.

52. He was pleased to note that the members of the Council seemed unanimous in recognizing the need to ensure a more equitable and universal choice of

organizations to be granted consultative status and he thought that it might be appropriate to mention that principle in the draft resolution.

53. As regards the organ to be given the task described in the draft resolution, the Czechoslovak delegation was in favour of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations which should be increased for that purpose, and on a temporary basis, by the addition of five members to be appointed by the President of the Council to ensure equitable geographical distribution.

54. Mr. JHA (India) said that he appreciated the work that had been done quietly and efficiently by a number of non-governmental organizations but, nevertheless, felt that it was none too soon, after seventeen years, to re-examine the criteria set forth in resolution 288 B (X). Indeed, since its adoption, United Nations activities had undergone some significant changes.

55. The amendments proposed by the United States delegation seemed to have some merit and he hoped that the Council could adopt a text embodying the essential features of those amendments and of the draft resolution submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania.

56. Mr. UY (Philippines) said that his delegation, as a member of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, had always been guided by the criteria laid down in Council resolution 288 B (X), which it considered sufficient for an objective evaluation of the merits of organizations applying for consultative status. In his view, the defect of the system lay in the practical application of those criteria; the adoption of new criteria would probably fail to improve the situation, for the members of the Committee were inevitably influenced by subjective considerations.

57. However, his delegation would not oppose a review of the criteria; it felt that the draft resolution should express the Council's very firm opposition to government intervention in the activities of non-governmental organizations. Accordingly, he hoped that in the draft resolution all references to a government service would be replaced by the word "government". By using the term "intelligence agencies" the draft resolution gave the impression that the Council would not object to non-governmental organizations being financed by other agencies of certain States.

58. His delegation felt that the task envisaged in the draft resolution should be assigned to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. However, it would hesitate to give that Committee the power to suspend an organization's consultative status, even for a very short period, for that might result in an organization's being condemned without having an opportunity to plead its cause in the Council. It was for the Council to take such a radical step, on the recommendation of the Committee and taking account of the special circumstances of each case.

59. His delegation had not adopted a final position on operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, but feared that it might be difficult to implement because of the usually heavy agenda of the General Assembly. It nevertheless hoped that arrangements could be made for a United Nations body independent of the

Office of Public Information, to study the nature and activities of the non-governmental organizations associated with that Office.

60. Mr. MARTIN WITKOWSKI (France) said that he could approve the draft resolution submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania, with the amendments proposed by the United States. He nevertheless felt that operative paragraph 1 (d) of the draft, which was reproduced word for word in the United States amendments, implied complicated machinery for the collection of contributions which, although voluntary, would constitute compensation for the facilities and privileges which the non-governmental organizations currently enjoyed. He suggested that that sub-paragraph should be replaced by a simpler text, reading as follows: "to review, in the light of their financial

implications, the facilities and privileges enjoyed by these organizations".

61. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he would consider the United States amendments and the French amendment; in his view, the wording of the latter was particularly satisfactory. He would study all the suggested amendments with the delegations concerned and would submit a revised text of the draft resolution to the Council at its next meeting.

62. Mr. VARELA (Panama) expressed the hope that the Spanish text of the revised draft resolution would be available at the next meeting; if it were not, he would have to abstain when it was put to the vote.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.

