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President: Mr. PÉREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela).

AGENDA ITEM 22

Report of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (E/4514; E/L.1217)

1. Chief ADEBO (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research), introducing the report (E/4514), said he would confine himself to those activities of UNITAR which were directly relevant to the Council's responsibilities.

2. A topic much discussed at the present time was how to ensure that the second United Nations Development Decade would be more successful than the current one. Thus, an evaluation of what had been accomplished during the current Decade was indicated, and one of UNITAR's projects was precisely concerned with evaluation methods and standards. The subject was being studied in depth in co-operation with United Nations agencies, and the extent to which the application of correct evaluation techniques could help in the future had already emerged.

3. Another current UNITAR research project was the examination of the use by mass media of information on the United Nations; the results should be of great value. UNITAR was also carrying out a project on the transfer of technology, the aim being to discover how technological expertise was transmitted from a developed country to a not so developed country.

4. A project of great interest to Council members was UNITAR's study of the brain drain, about which much had been said, though detailed knowledge on the subject was lacking. An interim report had been submitted to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to be used in the preparation of a report by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

5. The research project on the problems of very small States and territories was also very important. The study was being undertaken not to determine whether very small States were to be accepted as Members of the United Nations but to examine the mainly economic and social problems confronting such States.

6. The programme of training in technical assistance had now been decentralized, and seminars would no longer always be held in New York or Geneva. The recent one for Latin America had been held at Santiago, Chile, and

had proved extremely valuable. UNITAR had recently issued a manual of United Nations technical assistance¹ for distribution to all those working in that field, and it had been well received.

7. Another programme of relevance to the Council's work was that in development financing, which could perhaps be described as the most important aspect of development. Not only was insufficient money being made available for development financing but there was insufficient understanding between donors and recipients. UNITAR had brought the two groups together with a view to more co-operative work. It was incidentally, the policy of UNITAR to ensure that knowledge and experience of development were introduced into all its training programmes. Examples were the recent course in New York for diplomats, designed to improve their knowledge of the United Nations in the interests of their work as representatives of their countries, and the regional seminars on topics of international law which in fact, as in the case of the one to be held soon in Latin America, touched upon very important problems of regional concern.

8. With regard to the future of UNITAR, internal studies were now proceeding at the Institute. The time had come to take a fresh look at the Institute's research activities, and a grant of \$100,000 had been received from the Ford Foundation towards the cost of a review of the planning of future research activities. Meanwhile, the Board of Trustees had instructed him to submit proposals covering training and research projects for its meeting in September 1968. The staff of the Institute was very small, and the policy was to make use of national research and training institutions willing to co-operate with UNITAR's programmes; conversely, assistance was provided to national research and training institutions. UNITAR was already a "going concern", thanks to the great pioneering work of its first Executive Director, aided by a devoted staff and under the guidance of an eminent Board. It would, however, be impossible to make the most of that promising foundation unless more financial support was forthcoming. An expanded programme of work would be hopeless without such support. People were not generally aware that the Institute was financed entirely from voluntary contributions, and the time had come for countries participating in its financing to consider the possibility of increasing the amount of their contributions. He was pleased to announce that one major Power which previously had not been a contributor had now become one. Like the United Nations itself, UNITAR would become what member countries wanted it to be, and unless its finances were placed on a firmer basis it could not undertake the programmes of training and research planned on behalf of the United Nations,

¹ UNITAR document, UNITAR/EX/11.

the specialized agencies and the developing countries of the world. Given the tools, it would finish the job.

9. Mr. BRUNI CELLI (Venezuela) said that his delegation welcomed the additional training activities referred to in paragraph 6 of the report, and noted the decision to separate basic training of diplomats from advanced training and to decentralize the former, as indicated in paragraph 8. Paragraph 12 stated that the regionalization of training programmes in technical assistance would reduce the cost per candidate and make the training available to larger numbers.

10. It was encouraging to learn that the Institute was concerning itself with the important question of the brain drain, and many of its research and training activities, including those on the transfer of technology from enterprise to enterprise and development financing, would have a positive influence on the second Development Decade. Through its courses for foreign service officers and its seminars in international organization and multi-lateral diplomacy, UNITAR would contribute to better international understanding and help to improve the efficiency of international organizations.

11. The Executive Director had rightly emphasized the financial difficulties facing the Institute. The importance of its work and the need for increased finances to ensure its continuation had led the Libyan, Swedish and Venezuelan delegations to submit draft resolution E/L.1217. The sponsors hoped that the Council would endorse that draft and thus provide UNITAR with the support it urgently needed.

12. Mr. McCONNELL (United States of America) said that during the four months of his leadership the Executive Director had shown that he meant UNITAR to set an example in the training of competent planners for the future. To that end, the Institute would be decentralizing its training programmes in technical assistance in the year ahead thus reducing the cost per student, making it possible to train more officials, and encouraging the students to deal with practical work problems. As soon as practicable, UNITAR's training of diplomats would also be decentralized. As a result, the foreign service officer courses would be up-graded to a more advanced level, which was a gratifying development.

13. His delegation particularly welcomed the plans to expand in-service training for high level United Nations and specialized agency staff in administrative management and in substantive aspects of United Nations programmes. Of special interest was the UNITAR Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial Fellowship Programme, under which selected groups of young men and women pursuing careers in diplomacy and international organizations would spend an academic year with the United Nations in order to improve their public service competence. The United States contributed the total annual cost of \$100,000 without any matching conditions. His delegation had been impressed with the calibre of the fellows selected, but it would like to see more emphasis placed on their participation in actual United Nations activities at the working level.

14. The second aspect of UNITAR's work was modern scientific and social research. The technology which was helping to solve the food and population problems was also available to help in tackling that of education, the third of the crucial problems facing the developing world. UNITAR could help to plan the use of the new technology, beginning within the United Nations itself. Data previously available only in libraries could be put into central information memory cores and disseminated by wire or satellite into regional educational units such as those conceived by the planners in UNITAR. Social and political participation by United Nations agencies could thus be made more direct and universal. The true communication and use of information was the web of the new society and the basis of all human understanding, organization and effort.

15. His delegation approved the development of planning-programming-budgeting systems in relation to the economic and social activities of the United Nations and hoped for early implementation of the studies involved. It also recognized the effect on developing countries of the brain drain of some of their most talented and educated citizens and pledged its co-operation in the search for constructive measures to stem the drain. The provision of hospitals, laboratories, clinics and housing, together with tax benefits and incentives, might be part of the solution.

16. His delegation noted with approval the training programmes mentioned in paragraph 5 of the report. It seemed wise to separate the basic from the advanced training and to decentralize the basic training to the various regions. The economies obtained through regionalization of training in technical assistance should help to increase the number of participants and improve discussion and comparative studies of technical assistance plans in economically related communities, particularly in the developing countries.

17. His delegation was pleased to note the continuance of the valuable fellowship programme in international law; the new UNITAR/UNIDO training programme in industrial investment promotion was another important venture which, it was to be hoped, would attract the investment badly needed by countries endeavouring to establish an industrial basis for their society.

18. The United States had recently announced a voluntary matching contribution of up to \$400,000 to the regular budget of UNITAR, cumulative payments by the United States not to exceed 40 per cent of the total cumulative cash contributions made by Governments. The United States appreciated the growing support for UNITAR by other countries, and by private bodies and foundations, and trusted that all promises would be fulfilled to strengthen the financial basis on which the Institute operated.

19. Mr. BERQUIST (Sweden) said that Sweden had supported UNITAR from the outset, on the grounds that the United Nations system needed a body able to undertake certain training and research work. Emphasis should be placed on the word "system", for the Institute should feel and act as an integral part of that total system.

Similarly, in order to avoid duplication of effort and ensure maximum efficiency, the Institute should maintain close contact with the many governmental and non-governmental bodies also engaged on training and research work.

20. The Institute's training and research programmes were well balanced. Sweden was particularly interested in the training programmes for foreign service officers serving with permanent missions to the United Nations, and hoped that the courses would be continued. The research programme was geared to the needs of the United Nations system and its members. It was satisfactory to note that the Institute had refrained from embarking on too many tasks so as to avoid straining its scarce resources. It was important to be able to complete projects already under way before starting new ones.

21. Nearly all the Institute's research work would be of immediate benefit to the United Nations system, but Sweden attached particular importance to the studies on evaluation methods and standards and on the use by mass media of information on the United Nations. The evaluation study had already yielded interesting results and had provided material which would be of assistance in elaborating methods for use in evaluating development programmes and projects. His delegation hoped that the ACC would take account of the study and make use of the methods suggested in it. A unified approach to the various development programmes and projects and a real assessment of them was an essential prerequisite for the success of the second Development Decade.

22. It would be interesting to see, with respect to the study on the use by mass media of information on the United Nations, whether the youth of the world could be persuaded to take an interest in the United Nations. An effort should be made to translate youth's sense of solidarity into a sense of participation in the work of the one organization which embodied the idea of world solidarity, namely, the United Nations.

23. Sweden hoped that the voluntary contributions on which UNITAR depended would be forthcoming so that the Institute could continue its valuable work.

24. Mr. BENLER (Turkey) said that the Institute's programme of work as outlined in the report seemed well balanced. Turkey welcomed the emphasis placed on training—a matter to which the developing countries attached particular importance. It was essential that the Institute's limited resources should be allocated in accordance with priorities. The research programme should be practical and closely related to the requirements of the developing countries. His delegation therefore welcomed the fact that special attention was being paid to the evaluation of the Development Decade.

25. The courses and seminars organized for national and international personnel were of great value. Although there was a need for advanced courses, it might be more appropriate if programmes were designed to meet the needs of younger civil servants, and in view of the emphasis being placed on it, co-ordination was a subject which should be dealt with in those programmes.

26. His delegation would support the joint draft resolution submitted before the Council.

27. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had noted with approval the Executive Director's view that the time had come to review both branches of UNITAR's work and it looked forward to learning the results of that review. The proposals to extend and improve training programmes and seminars in international organization and multilateral diplomacy were welcomed. That work would prove most useful to persons unfamiliar with the work of the United Nations, and his delegation hoped to be able to benefit from the courses and seminars. He wondered, incidentally, whether the Executive Director was in a position to supply information concerning the post of Director of Training, which was still vacant.

28. The United Kingdom welcomed the arrangements being made for collaboration with research institutes in Peru and the Soviet Union and with various international institutions. The Executive Director had set the United Nations system a good example by using the facilities of existing institutions so as to avoid duplication of effort.

29. In his statement, the Executive Director had let it be understood that the Institute's work would continue to be financed by voluntary contributions. On the assumption that that was the idea underlying paragraph 5 of the joint draft resolution, the United Kingdom delegation supported the proposal.

30. Mr. BITTREMIEUX (Belgium) was glad to find that UNITAR's training and research activities were developing satisfactorily. His delegation welcomed the trend towards the regionalization of training work, but considered that the results should be analysed after a certain time had elapsed. Regionalization reduced *per capita* training costs and therefore made it possible to train a larger number of fellows, but it was important that the resultant increase in activities should not affect either the level or the efficiency of training courses.

31. His delegation was most interested in the review being undertaken to assess the scope, limitations and strategy of the Institute's work, and considered it desirable to determine the exact place of the Institute within the United Nations family. He noted with interest that the Institute was co-operating in research with other institutes, such co-operation would avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping. He also noted with satisfaction that certain seminars and courses would be given in French and hoped that that practice would be continued. Incidentally, his delegation agreed that the French name of the Institute should be "Institut des Nations Unies pour la formation et la recherche".

32. Belgium had supported the Institute from the outset and had made a voluntary contribution spread over five years. His delegation approved the report on the work of the Institute.

33. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he hoped that UNITAR would develop its

activities to the advantage of all countries, and particularly the developing countries. As a relatively new body, the Institute required guidance and recommendations to help it to concentrate on vital areas of activity. For example, a large number of bodies were engaged in economic and social work within the United Nations system, and a critical problem was how the effectiveness of the machinery established could be increased. UNITAR should play a major role in that connexion. He hoped that the studies already embarked upon by the Institute would contribute to more efficient use of resources in the development process.

34. His delegation was glad to see that one of the main items in the Institute's programme of work concerned measures to reduce the brain drain. It shared the views of the Executive Director that the Institute's efforts should be directed towards research in the economic and social fields, where UNITAR should be requested to study industrialization methods, the analysis of achievements and prospects for economic change and the training of scientific and technical staff in the developing countries.

35. He agreed that the Institute by itself would be unable to fulfil all the tasks assigned to it and that it would have to co-operate with the United Nations Secretariat and avoid duplicating the work of other bodies. Particularly complex problems could be tackled with the help of the specialized agencies and the support of national institutes in the developed and developing countries. In industrialization matters, he assumed that the Institute would work in close co-operation with UNIDO.

36. The Soviet Government had decided to make an annual contribution of 100,000 roubles and \$40,000 to the Institute. His delegation hoped that the Executive Director's recent visit to Moscow would result in close co-operation with scientific bodies and institutes in the USSR.

37. Mr. AL-MUTAIR (Kuwait) said that his Government had wholeheartedly supported the Institute from the outset; it was convinced that the training offered to the technicians of the developing countries could not be duplicated anywhere in the world. UNITAR was unique by its international structure and vocation, and the valuable results of its activities were already evident. His delegation was convinced that with the support and assistance of Governments and non-governmental organizations, the Institute would continue to provide the developing countries with the technical knowledge they required for the implementation of their economic and social development projects.

38. Mr. McCABE (Ireland) said that his delegation would be prepared to vote for the joint draft resolution. With reference to operative paragraph 5, however, he pointed out that Ireland was a small country with limited financial resources, and might not be able to increase the contribution it had already made.

39. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that a paragraph along the lines of operative

paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1249 (XLIII) should be included in the joint draft resolution. He further proposed the replacement of the word "progress" in operative paragraph 2 by the word "efforts", and the addition of the words "as seen from his statement in the Council" after the words "Executive Director" in operative paragraph 3. If the sponsors insisted on the retention of operative paragraph 5, he suggested that it might be amended to read as follows: "Takes note of the proposal put forward by the Executive Director for greater financial support for the Institute".

40. Mr. GREGH (France), referring to the first Soviet amendment, questioned the wisdom of reproducing a paragraph from the previous year's resolution on the subject, particularly as the draft under consideration already referred to Council resolution 1249 (XLIII) in the first preambular paragraph.

41. Mr. BERQUIST (Sweden) said that his delegation would be prepared to accept the amendments proposed by the USSR representative if they would lead to the unanimous adoption of the joint draft resolution.

42. Mr. BRUNI-CELLI (Venezuela) pointed out that the USSR representative's proposed amendment to operative paragraph 2 might give the impression that no progress had been made in the implementation of current training programmes; perhaps his point could be met by the use of the words "efforts made and progress achieved". The basic idea reflected in operative paragraph 5 might be stated differently, but it should not be eliminated altogether.

43. Chief ADEBO (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research) pointed out that the amendment proposed by the USSR representative to operative paragraph 3 would not tally with the facts; the review referred to was mentioned in the report.

44. Mr. LÓPEZ HERRARTE (Guatemala) proposed the addition of the following words at the end of operative paragraph 2: "and hoped that, in the implementation of its tasks, UNITAR would avoid duplication of efforts with other similar bodies already in existence". He further proposed the addition of the words "through the fulfilment of pledges of Governments as well as through additional voluntary contributions" at the end of operative paragraph 5.

45. Mr. SOLEIMAN (Libya) proposed the suspension of the meeting to enable the sponsors of the draft resolution and delegations which had proposed amendments to agree on a generally acceptable text.

The meeting was suspended at 12.35 p.m. and resumed at 1 p.m.

46. Mr. BRUNI CELLI (Venezuela) announced that an agreed draft resolution had been arrived at. A new operative paragraph would be inserted between the existing operative paragraphs 3 and 4 to read: "Reaffirms the

importance of co-operation and co-ordination between the Institute and the United Nations Secretariat, other United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, as well as with appropriate national and international institutes."

47. Operative paragraph 5 would be amended to read: "*Takes note of and supports* the case put by the Executive Director for greater financial support for the Institute through the fulfilment of the pledges already made by Governments as well as through additional voluntary contributions." The other amendments proposed had been withdrawn.

The joint draft resolution (E/L.12/7), as amended, was adopted unanimously.

48. Chief ADEBO (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research) said that the unani-

mous adoption of the draft resolution was most encouraging and a gratifying expression of confidence in UNITAR. Referring to the question raised by the United Kingdom representative, he explained that the post of Director of Training had remained unfilled not because of any negligence but because of his predecessor's desire to ensure that the most highly qualified person was selected. He was at present pursuing negotiations initiated by his predecessor and hoped that a Director of Training would be appointed within the next few weeks.

49. The PRESIDENT, speaking on behalf of the Council as a whole, wished the Executive Director every success in his office and expressed gratification at the progress being made by UNITAR.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.