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*President: Mr. Manuel PÉREZ GUERRERO*  
*(Venezuela).*

AGENDA ITEM 4

Production and use of edible protein (concluded) (E/4592 and Add.1, Add.2, Add.3 and Corr.1, Add.4, E/L.1239, E/L.1240)

1. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that one of the worst features of the world protein crisis was that the very people who were most likely to suffer were the least aware of the dangers of malnutrition. Ways would therefore have to be found of increasing public awareness and teaching mothers that unborn and growing children were particularly vulnerable. That responsibility lay with Governments and their subordinate agencies, but they themselves might not be fully aware of the dangers to future generations, of methods of remedying the position or of the new technology available to help them. Moreover, it was not a matter for Ministries of Health alone, but rather for Governments as a whole.

2. There was a need for external technical assistance to support local efforts. For its part, the United Kingdom was doing its best not only in the matter of boosting production from conventional sources, but also in exploring new sources of protein. In addition to the need for higher production and improved conservation and distribution methods, the United Kingdom recognized the importance of research into new and tastier forms of protein. Research of that sort was probably better carried out by national or private institutions.

3. The Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development had done well to initiate the studies leading to the report of the Secretary-General on the protein problem (E/4592 and Add.1, Add.2, Add.3 and Corr.1, Add.4) and FAO, WHO and UNICEF were making valuable contributions through and independently of the Protein Advisory Group. There was no need for new machinery but the Council must watch development closely.

4. The relevant agencies had three main functions: to review their own priorities and ensure that the know-how and assistance they were providing were adequate to meet the urgent world-wide situation, if necessary rearranging their budget allocation accordingly; to consider whether they were making the maximum possible use of UNDP funds for national and regional work; and to keep an eagle eye on their mutual co-ordination, without which it would be difficult to solve the problem.

5. The Council should ask the agencies to devote particular attention to the matter in their annual reports and to say how their efforts were progressing, what results were being achieved and how the use of UNDP projects was expanding. It would then lie with the Council to consider whether any additional impetus was needed and, if so, how it was to be provided.

6. It seemed likely that the problem would vary as between regions but be broadly similar within any one region. It might therefore be valuable to bring together leaders and decision-makers of each region at meetings with experts with a view to focusing regional attention on the protein problem, its remedies and the action needed by Governments.

7. The protein problem could not be separated from other nutrition matters or considered in isolation from agricultural development, general food supplies and other health questions. In the long term, general development would have the effect of improving nutrition, but the growing children of today could not wait until then. They were tomorrow's citizens and leaders and how they were fed now would affect the next half-century.

8. The Council should ensure that the United Nations contributed its full share to the solution, and it should start by communicating a sense of urgency to the Governments and peoples in affected areas.

9. He congratulated the Canadian delegation for having taken advantage at the preceding meeting of the provision in the rules of procedure of the Council that enabled non-members to address the Council. It was to be hoped that other delegations would follow suit, if they had any useful contributions to make. The working paper submitted by Canada (E/L.1239) would lead to more general awareness of the protein problem.

10. His delegation felt less happy, however, about the draft resolution submitted by India (E/L.1240). The proposal to launch a five-year protein development campaign and set up a new body of experts would mean a call for new finance without necessarily producing dynamic action. It underrated the work of the Advisory Committee and the Protein Advisory Group and gave insufficient recognition to bilateral technical assistance and the work that had been done to find new sources of protein. What was needed was more action in the field rather than new machinery at Headquarters.

11. His delegation believed in a three-point programme of action. The agencies, whose governing bodies were certainly deeply concerned about the problem, should utilize UNDP funds to make further progress. The Advisory Committee should continue its search for improved methods of obtaining protein from traditional sources and new techniques for using non-traditional sources, and its work on pre-

servation and distribution and the transfer of technology. The Council should keep the problem under review and take it up every one or two years; on the basis of what the regional economic commissions had to say, it could recommend new action in areas that were not being fully covered and promote proper co-ordination. One of his more detailed criticisms of the draft resolution was that systems analysis could hardly be applied to the protein problem, as suggested in paragraph 5 (a). What was needed was first an analysis of the problem and then an attempt to find a solution. Again, since UNDP could undertake specific studies there was no need to embark on anything as grandiose as an inter-disciplinary global study.

12. Mr. BILLNER (Sweden) supported the specific proposals made by the Protein Advisory Group in document E/4592/Add.1, and approved of the order of priorities established by the Group and the suggestion that the problem should be reviewed in two years' time.

13. He was glad to see that a more realistic approach had been adopted and that the interdependence of different activities aimed at filling the protein gap had been underlined. The Secretary-General's report rightly stressed the importance of gaining public acceptance for policies adopted to solve the problem.

14. Sweden believed that the co-ordination of research efforts was vital and that the fight against malnutrition would be weaker without the experience of FAO and WHO. It was dangerous to delegate research policy decisions to specialized scientific societies that would probably lack the broad approach that was necessary. The efforts of scientists in one country working on research projects which might have already been completed by their counterparts elsewhere could be spared by improved communication. UNESCO's biological and brain research, for instance, should be co-ordinated with similar work being carried out by other bodies. Such co-ordination might usefully be assigned to the Protein Advisory Group.

15. All projects undertaken by the Group should be based on feasibility studies and evaluation.

16. He shared the Group's view that the United Nations should play a more important part than that of a catalyst, when it came to raising the necessary funds. If contributors wished to give their support to any particular programme, such as, say, the production of protein-rich foods, they should be able to designate their beneficiaries.

17. Finally, the sociological, anthropological and marketing aspects of the protein problem should be given more attention by the Group.

18. Mr. GREGH (France) emphasized the vital role played by the Advisory Committee. The report of the Secretary-General did not show clearly that the problem comprised a number of separate problems each requiring its own solution. It grouped all activities together and failed to bring out sufficiently the importance of scientific investigation in such sectors as animal genetics, or of fostering new food habits among prospective consumers and paying attention to palatability. The information supplied by Governments could have been reported in greater detail. Many of

France's extensive overseas research activities, for example, had been completely overlooked.

19. There was insufficient time at the current session to deal with the subject in the manner it deserved, especially since the documentation had become available only recently. His delegation could not for the time being take a position on the Indian draft resolution (E/L.1240). The problems it raised could not be solved without a full evaluation of their implications, which affected a number of specialized agencies. The question was too important for hasty discussion, and his delegation would therefore support the Canadian working paper (E/L.1239) as a first step, with the addition of a new operative paragraph to the effect that the item should be placed on the agenda of the forty-seventh session. His delegation also supported the United Kingdom representative's suggestion that the Council should review the problem periodically.

20. Mr. ROUAMBA (Upper Volta) said that the protein problem was extremely important and had been discussed by the Protein Advisory Group for ten years. He noted that the Group's membership had been expanded from eight to twelve and that the developed countries attached great importance to technical progress in food production. Canada, France, Sweden and the United States had been carrying out technical studies and were making good progress. The samples that the Council had tasted at its 1569th meeting were very encouraging.

21. The developing countries, with their expanding populations, were particularly vulnerable to protein deficiencies. The case of Upper Volta was typical, and it was vital that the new generation should not be deprived of its vitality.

22. There was a risk that the problem might not be dealt with properly because of a lack of ideas from the many organizations involved and he therefore welcomed the proposal for a United Nations campaign to promote technical and scientific research on proteins and to gain greater public acceptance of non-traditional protein foods.

23. In the report of the Secretary-General it was recommended that the role of the United Nations should be that of a catalyst. Although all the replies to the questionnaire had not yet been received, it had been proposed that concerted international efforts should be intensified. The working paper and the draft resolution were a valuable contribution and the protein problem should be treated as a test case. From the Council's discussion, it was obvious that there was great interest in the problem and it was essential to galvanize public opinion.

24. With regard to the adequacy of the existing machinery for achieving the objectives indicated in the report, his delegation considered that the Protein Advisory Group should be the main body responsible for dealing with the problem.

25. His delegation found itself in a somewhat difficult position because it wished to support both the working paper and the draft resolution. But the Indian representative had said that he was open to suggestions and perhaps the two documents were not mutually

exclusive. In any event, there was not enough time to discuss the matter more fully and the Council should keep the item on its agenda for further and more thorough discussion later. In the meantime, it should carry out its role as an intermediary for the General Assembly, which might succeed in introducing new ideas, in achieving a compromise between the Canadian and Indian texts or in extracting elements from both which would keep attention focused on the problem.

26. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that, although supplies of cereals were much better as a result of better harvests, the developing countries were still faced with the very serious problem of malnutrition, which could be dealt with only by an intensive international and national campaign. The Council had before it a number of useful documents which gave a good idea of the industrial, agricultural, technical and managerial action that was needed.

27. Protein was essential for growing children and nursing mothers and more must be obtained from conventional sources. That would require a change in trade-flow patterns and a huge educational effort. Unfortunately, there was no time to consider the documents fully and discuss the matter properly. If it was to be taken up by the General Assembly, his delegation would prefer the Council to take note of the documents and transmit them to the General Assembly together with the working paper and the draft resolution.

28. Mr. HOVEYTA (Iran) said that the Council should congratulate the bodies responsible for producing the highly interesting information before it.

29. As the Director-General of FAO had pointed out in a letter to Mr. de Seynes (E/4592/Add.4), Governments needed time to answer questionnaires, and arrangements had to be made for the necessary information to be translated into one of the United Nations official languages.

30. Iran considered the protein problem very serious and had created a special ministry to deal with it and other food problems.

31. The population problem was not so much one of increase as one of distribution in terms of age groups and social groups.

32. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General, he fully agreed with the contents of paragraph 10 of document E/4592. He also agreed with the Protein Advisory Group's views on non-conventional sources and with the specific proposals on page 8 of document E/4592/Add.1. The need to create consumer demand for fish had been rightly stressed. Iran was particularly aware of the difficulty of changing consumption patterns, because the expansion of its fishing industry in the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea had not yet been matched by higher consumer demand. It hoped that the recently established Inter-Ministerial Committee would succeed in educating the public to eat more fish.

33. Mr. de Seynes had said (1569th meeting) that there was a general atmosphere of crisis surrounding the protein problem, yet paragraph 24 of document E/4592 stated that there was a need to increase awareness of it. Again, according to paragraph 33,

there was a considerable body of scientific and technical information available but it was still being said that more studies were required. Furthermore, it was manifestly absurd to ask the developing countries to educate their populations on complex nutritional matters, when they were still deeply involved in literacy campaigns.

34. Another point that was left in doubt was whether political or scientific mobilization was being recommended in paragraph 28. The word "mobilize" was much abused in United Nations documents and difficult to take seriously.

35. The word "prerequisite"—another United Nations cliché—had been used by UNESCO. The question was which of the many prerequisites had priority. He urged that that word and many like it should be avoided as far as possible.

36. The recent UNESCO Symposium on Brain Research and Human Behaviour had taken the view that irreversible physical and mental retardation was caused by malnutrition. He asked the UNESCO representative whether the entire effort should not perhaps be concentrated on nutrition problems if that was the case, since literacy campaigns would clearly be of little value or cancelled out by mental retardation.

37. The question of priorities should be solved by the Protein Advisory Group. The developing countries needed advice on how the protein and other more general food problems should be dovetailed into general development plans since there were not enough resources or skills for every problem to be dealt with intensively.

38. He agreed with the expansion of the Group's membership from eight to twelve since its purpose was to ensure better scientific representation rather than to improve geographical distribution, but he thought that there should not be more than fourteen members.

39. The preambular paragraphs of the working paper (E/L.1239) were rather meagre and wording along the lines of the third, fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution (E/L.1240) was preferable. The word "knowledge" should be omitted from paragraph 5 of the working paper, since the specialized agencies were not scientific bodies and the word "sympathetic", in paragraph 6 should also be omitted as inappropriate. In any event, he could not vote on either of the praiseworthy documents before the Council without prior consultation with his Government.

40. Mr. LOPEZ URZUA (Guatemala) said that the report and the comments of the specialized agencies had done much to clarify the serious protein problem. The report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development<sup>1/</sup> demonstrated the serious consequences for young people and pointed out the dangers of physical and mental retardation caused by malnutrition.

41. Although the problem varied from country to country, it was important that research in one country should be communicated to others. Guatemala was the

<sup>1/</sup> Feeding the Expanding World Population: International Action to Avert the Impending Protein Crisis (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIII.2).

headquarters of the Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama, where major research into proteins was being carried out, and one of its products, Incaparina, was a complete food that could be produced at low cost.

42. As Mr. de Seynes had said (1569th meeting), the protein problem could not be solved without the necessary political will. His delegation therefore favoured the idea of an international campaign to achieve greater co-operation between responsible officials and to hasten the elimination of nutritional deficiencies, which had such critical effects during pregnancy and childhood. The protein problem, because of its serious nature, should be treated separately from general food problems.

43. Mr. FIGUEREDO PLANCHART (Venezuela) said that the protein problem went beyond scientific and technical considerations. He drew attention to the statement, in paragraph 22 of document E/4592, that the key to the solution lay in the ability to draw on existing scientific and technical knowledge and to remove technological obstacles to the adaptation of existing technology to conditions in various developing countries. The reference to the need for greater public awareness of the problem also deserved emphasis. His delegation welcomed the impetus which the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development and the other bodies concerned had given to the search for solutions.

44. He agreed that the Council could not deal adequately with the subject in the time available at its current session. The Indian draft resolution (E/L.1240) and the Canadian working paper (E/L.1239) had the same objective; the latter could be used as a good initial basis for action while taking into account the Indian delegation's suggestions. At the present stage his delegation could not give a considered answer to the question put by Mr. de Seynes and the representative of Upper Volta, namely, whether it would be possible to achieve the desired solutions with the existing machinery.

45. The Protein Advisory Group could continue to play an important technical role. He agreed with the suggestion of the representative of Upper Volta to refer the Canadian and Indian drafts to the Second Committee. Meanwhile, interested delegations might formulate compromise proposals.

46. Mr. PLEHN MEJIA (Mexico) said that his delegation would make detailed observations on the matter in the Second Committee. He commended the Canadian and Indian representatives on their drafts and supported the proposal by the representative of Upper Volta to refer them to the Second Committee, where they would have the benefit of the views of other delegations not represented in the Council. The problem deserved to be raised to a level of priority at which it would command the political will necessary for its solution.

47. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) said that an inter-ministerial body set up by his Government to consider the report of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development was continuing to study the protein problem in the

light of new technological developments and of reports submitted by various international bodies.

48. The Secretary-General's report had been submitted too late for thorough study and contained too little of the information sent in by Governments to give a proper picture of the problems and what was being done to solve them. He hoped that full information would be made available to interested delegations. The documents failed to relate the protein problem to the world food problem as a whole. People in many developing countries suffered from hunger and not just a protein deficiency. He welcomed the comments of the Protein Advisory Group (E/4592/Add.1). All competent bodies should continue to seek practical solutions, bearing in mind the need to introduce foods that appealed to popular taste. Argentina had attempted unsuccessfully to interest the population in eating more fish to balance the diet and in order to free other proteins for export. A certain basic level of education and literacy was also necessary before people could be taught how to prepare food without losing its protein value.

49. The Indian draft resolution was somewhat ambitious, given the short time during which the United Nations documentation had been available; considerable study would be required before Governments could express their views. His delegation would support the Canadian working paper incorporating the French oral amendment as a basis for further work.

50. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), emphasizing the importance of the food problem as a whole, said that the agricultural progress and increased food supplies of the past decade had been achieved mainly in the industrialized countries. The main difficulty for the developing countries, many of which were single-crop producers, had been their inability to secure equitable terms in trading their commodities for manufactures. Their low level of industrialization and poor economic and social conditions were due to the fact that vast areas of land had been in the hands of a few minority groups. The best means of solving the protein problem would be to raise productivity and the general level of living.

51. Developing countries had the potential to reduce their independence on imports, at present costing \$4,000 million annually, provided they were given the technical means of doing so. The Soviet Union had given assistance in various agricultural projects, including animal husbandry, and in irrigation projects such as the Aswan dam. As a result of the action taken to extend the land under cultivation and intensify animal husbandry, there were adequate supplies of protein for the population of the USSR. Further study would be needed on non-conventional sources before they could be put to practical use. The Soviet Union was carrying out animal research in order to boost production.

52. The specialized agencies should continue to study the technical problems and the Council should co-ordinate their efforts. His delegation would discuss the matter in greater detail at an appropriate time.

53. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) said that a major effort would be needed in the next few decades to feed the rapidly expanding population of the developing

countries where nutritional standards were low. It was ironical that the production of food in those countries was lagging behind requirements for want of the necessary expertise and finance.

54. The report of the Secretary-General was concerned more with the content than with the supply of food but both quality and quantity were essential for health and well-being. It was heartening that the developing countries understood the problem and were taking measures to improve the nutritional value of food.

55. The application of technology to the food problem was less difficult than the transfer of science and technology in general. The relevant institutions in the developing countries could be improved with the assistance of the advanced countries and United Nations agencies. The emphasis in the report on the need to produce protein on a large scale and distribute it efficiently implied that Government intervention was necessary. Children's needs must be kept particularly in mind with a view to building up a healthy new generation. His delegation agreed that personnel and facilities for applied research should be made available to all developing countries and that technology should be adapted to local conditions.

56. His Government had made great efforts to improve the quality of food and make protein available to those in need. It was trying to revitalize the fishing industry for its own benefit and that of neighbouring countries and was studying the potentialities of proteins produced from oil. It provided milk to schools and hospitals. Kuwait was considering the establishment of an arid zone research and agricultural development centre and was also co-operating with a Japanese firm in setting up an institute for scientific research, whose departments would deal respectively with arid zones, fisheries and petroleum research. A nutrition section had been set up in the Ministry of Public Health to deal with hospital catering, and it was hoped shortly to establish a laboratory and research centre to solve the nutrition problem as a whole.

57. His delegation found no incompatibility between the Indian draft resolution and the Canadian working paper but would prefer to reserve its comments on the latter until later. One of the objectives of the United Nations protein development campaign, referred to in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution should be to disseminate information and educate the public on the effects of protein deficiency and the need to adopt proper dietary habits. The invitation in paragraph 10 should also be extended to the regional economic commissions and the Economic and Social Office in Beirut. The draft resolution should call upon the specialized agencies and advanced countries to respond to requests from developing countries for assistance in research and technology. Instead of appointing a United Nations protein development board, as requested in paragraph 8, the Secretary-General could more appropriately be requested to convene an annual meeting of experts of the Secretariat and specialized agencies to review the relevant activities and report to the competent United Nations organ on the studies made.

58. He would be pleased to help in working out an appropriate formula if the Indian representative ac-

cepted his suggestions and would also be at the Canadian representative's disposal for drafting a composite text.

59. Mr. COX (Sierra Leone) welcomed the recommendations in the report concerning the need for an annual review of the problem, for an interdisciplinary and systematic approach, for the classification, retrieval and wider dissemination of information and for stimulating research.

60. The difficulty for the developing countries was not so much a lack of resources as developing those they possessed. Sierra Leone, for example, was a developing country whose territorial waters were rich in fish, and it possessed abundant animal life, but it needed to be developed industrially before it could turn those advantages to account. He suspected that much of the research being carried out was done for prestige reasons rather than to benefit the developing countries.

61. There was no contradiction between the Canadian working paper and the Indian draft resolution but the latter was more complete. He agreed that a combined text should be formulated.

62. Mr. DE SILVA (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), referring to the points raised by the representative of Iran, said that UNESCO had decided at its 1960 General Conference that priority, in terms of UNESCO's programmes and resources, should be given to education, and at its 1964 General Conference that priority should also be given to science. Over the past twenty years many States members of UNESCO and Members of the United Nations had also decided to give priority to education, and more recently to science, in their own national plans; in that case the decision had been political and taken by the Governments themselves. Some confusion might arise, especially among the public, regarding the intrinsic importance of what were termed "prerequisites" as compared with other activities; but everyone must agree that health was a prerequisite to education, in the sense that the child must be healthy enough to be able to attend school in order to learn.

63. At the preceding meeting the representative of UNESCO had referred to the Symposium on Brain Research and Human Behaviour organized by UNESCO in Paris in March 1968, which had agreed that early malnutrition retarded growth and reduced the child's mental power. Adults also needed proteins for the full realization of their mental powers but if there was protein deficiency in childhood, there could be irreversible damage. A multidisciplinary approach was most important, and all the specialized agencies concerned must play their part. That was why UNESCO's Executive Board wished to participate in the work of the Protein Advisory Group, so that that Group could advise on UNESCO programmes related to its work.

64. The representative of France had rightly said, in commenting on the draft resolution, that it was necessary to evaluate the implications for all the specialized agencies concerned before taking any decision. UNESCO would continue its high-level consultations with the United Nations. Mr. de Seynes had said that the United Nations family could expect what might be termed a scientific invasion of its pro-

grammes; that had already begun, but many questions of competence and political implications in the new scientific fields would have to be settled.

65. Mr. VARELA (Panama) said that the protein problem was of a technical nature and the Council was not a body of experts. Moreover, he was surprised that the protein problem was given such high priority when the major problem of hunger was still unsolved. For many developing countries it was impractical to suggest the use of industrially produced or processed protein-rich foods; as the representative of the USSR had said, the main problem was that those countries were not realizing their agricultural potential to the full. Furthermore, the introduction of new foods would require lengthy educational campaigns.

66. He regretted that he would be unable to vote for the draft resolution (E/L.1240), both because of the foregoing considerations, and because of its far-reaching implications, particularly paragraph 7.

67. If France decided to sponsor the working paper (E/L.1239) as a draft resolution, Panama would support it, with the French verbal amendment. However, it might be wiser if the Council decided to consider the matter further after it had been carefully studied by Governments and experts familiar with the subject. The Council could then take a decision at its next session in the context of the global strategy for the second United Nations Development Decade.

68. Mr. WOODWARD (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said, in reply to the representative of Iran, that the Protein Advisory Group set the priorities for its own work; it gave advice to the sponsoring and other specialized agencies, but it was then for those agencies to decide whether to act on its recommendations. However, since the Group represented three specialized agencies, its recommendations might well be given considerable weight, as emanating from a distinguished group of experts. But each agency must relate priorities to its programme as a whole and take account of the wishes of its member States and of its resources. There was an inevitable time-lag in applying decisions on priorities, because of budget procedures. As indicated in document E/4592/Add.1, co-ordination at the national level, both internally and in relation to international programmes, was highly important at the present time.

69. The Director-General of FAO had received a copy of the working paper and had said that FAO fully endorsed it.

70. The draft resolution raised some practical difficulties because of its late appearance. The Director-General had not seen it, and in view of the importance of the subject and of FAO's special responsibilities with regard to edible protein, the Council might wish to have the Director-General's comments before taking any decision. Though no comment was available from FAO headquarters, he believed that the observations in document E/4592/Add.4 could be regarded as comments on the substance of the Indian draft resolution, although of course it had not been available when the Director-General's report had been prepared in October. He would find it difficult to support a draft resolution which included such

institutional arrangements and, moreover, the proposal appeared to be inconsistent with other Council resolutions. He doubted whether action could be effective if divorced from the action of those bearing the prime responsibility in the field concerned. Hence he hoped that the Council would give the Director-General of FAO an opportunity for comment before any decision was taken.

71. Mr. DUBEY (India), replying to comments by the representative of Kuwait, said that the aim of his draft resolution was to carry the work forward. Consequently India was not wedded to any particular wording or type of institutional arrangement. He could not agree with those who appeared to think that all was well in the matter of edible protein. Regarding the suggestions by the representative of Kuwait, he had no difficulty in accepting the first three, subject to some drafting changes, and the last could provide a basis for reaching agreement on the proposals before the Council.

72. Mr. GRESFORD (Secretariat), replying to a question from the United Kingdom representative, said that systems analysis was a powerful tool for dealing with a complicated situation involving a number of varied and unrelated parameters relating to political, economic, manpower or other factors. A simple definition was given on page 5 of document E/4592/Add.2. It provided an integrated approach to a problem, indicating alternative steps for achieving results, and permitted monitoring of results and corresponding adjustment of plans. It was supported by various modern techniques, including operational research, simulation theory, critical path analysis and programme evaluation and review techniques. The technique was very effective in dealing with complicated problems on a large scale and could usefully be applied to the protein problem, firstly at the national level and secondly at the international level. It would permit greater precision in planning, in line with the suggestions of the *ad hoc* Panel of Experts, set up by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development.<sup>2/</sup>

73. He had understood the representative of France to say that the Secretary-General's report contained only one reference to work being done in France. That was not correct; there were at least fifteen references to work in France.

74. The PRESIDENT said that it was regrettable that, because of lack of time, the Council had not been able to agree on a substantive resolution for transmittal to the General Assembly. He suggested that the Council might adopt a resolution indicating that, having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on the protein problem, of a draft resolution submitted by India, and of a working paper submitted by Canada, it transmitted the report and the documentation relating to the item to the General Assembly.

75. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that, if the documents referred to were transmitted to the General Assembly, it should be as part of a Council report on the subject and not as part of a resolution. The Council should emphasize that lack of time was the reason for

<sup>2/</sup> *Ibid.*, annex, para. 220.

the failure to agree on a proposal, and that the two documents concerned were not rival drafts.

76. Mr. GREGH (France) agreed, adding that it should be made clear that the item would remain on the Council's agenda.

77. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) also agreed. If the two documents were transmitted to the General Assembly, that might result in a procedural debate on priorities and create complications for the sponsors of the proposals if they wished to submit an agreed text based on consultations to the Second Committee.

78. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) also concurred, but thought that the failure to reach agreement was due not only to lack of time, but also to a difference of approach. The matter could be raised in the Second Committee, but it should be considered again at the Council's forty-seventh session.

79. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) agreed with the views of the representatives of France and the Soviet Union. He would have been prepared to support the Canadian proposal. It should be made clear that the question would be taken up again at the next session.

80. Mr. FIGUEREDO PLANCHART (Venezuela) and Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) supported the President's suggestion.

81. Mr. DUBEY (India) said that procedural suggestions on the transmittal of the documents were not of much significance. The Second Committee was free to take up any proposal it wished, regardless of what the Council decided. He regretted that it had not been possible to reconcile the various points of view and intended to raise the matter again in the General Assembly. It was pointless to decide that the Council would keep the item on its agenda; that would happen in any case since it was an important item. But if the intention of the proposal was that the General Assembly could not take a decision on the matter, then it was out of place.

82. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council might adopt a draft resolution along the following lines:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the problem of protein,

"1. Transmits the report to the General Assembly;

"2. Draws the attention of the General Assembly to the comments and observations on the item contained in the addendum to the report of the Economic and Social Council."

83. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines) said that he had no objection to such a text, although he could have accepted the President's first suggestion.

84. The PRESIDENT said, in reply to a question from Mr. GREGH (France) that those representatives who wished could see the draft of the report to the General Assembly.

85. Mr. DUBEY (India) said he hoped no precedent was being set in the preparation of the Council's reports. The expression of any rigid views by particular representatives would not be consonant with the spirit he had noted in the Council regarding the two proposals. It would be regrettable if the expression of such views were to lead to a hardening of attitudes in the General Assembly, in which case further consultations would have little meaning. The report should use general language stressing the points of agreement, and he had preferred the President's first suggestion. However, he did not oppose the idea that interested members should see the draft of the report.

86. The PRESIDENT asked the Council if it was prepared to adopt a draft resolution on the lines he had suggested.

*It was so agreed.*

*The meeting rose at 7.40 p.m.*