UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Forty-fifth session OFFICIAL RECORDS **1560**th meeting Friday , 2 August 1968 at 3.10 p.m.

PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

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President: Mr. PÉREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela).

Expression of sympathy for the Philippines

1. Mr. GREGH (France) said he wished to express to the Philippine delegation the deep sympathy of the French Government and people in connexion with the grave disaster which had just struck the Philippines.

2. The PRESIDENT endorsed the French representative's statement on behalf of the members of the Council, and requested the Philippine representative to convey the Council's heartfelt condolences to his Government.

3. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) thanked the members of the Council, particularly the French representative, for their message of sympathy, which he would certainly transmit to the President and people of the Philippines.

AGENDA ITEM 4

United Nations Development Decade

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/4579)

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the Economic Committee's report on agenda item 4 (E/4579) and to vote on draft resolutions I and II contained in paragraph 12.

I. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

5. Mr. GREGH (France) said he maintained the reservations he had made in the Economic Committee (470th meeting) concerning the French version of the words "policy" and "implementation" in operative paragraph 7.

6. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he would support the draft resolution, which was mainly designed to speed up the preparation of a whole series of documents on the work of United Nations bodies in areas likely to contribute to the development of developing countries during the 1970s. The draft resolution unfortunately, however, laid insufficient emphasis on the increasingly recognized fact that the key element in development was the effort to be made by each country for the maximum utilization of its human and material resources, an effort which in many cases called for a thorough reform of economic and social structures and a strengthening of the public sector. It was gratifying that there was not a single provision in the draft resolution, as worded, which could be considered to derive from the thesis of the collective responsibility of developed countries, a thesis which could not be accepted by the socialist countries, given the fact that they had not been involved in the exploitation of the Asian, African and Latin American countries. Finally, he wished to point out that the expression " international development policy" was meaningless, since it was for each Government to establish its development policy. If, however, it was agreed that the English word "policy" should be interpreted simply to mean steps to be taken, his delegation had no objection to approving the draft as it stood.

7. Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) said he did not regard the word "*application*" in operative paragraph 7 as a good translation of the English word "implementation", for the reference in that paragraph was not to he strict application of legislation, but rather to a search for means of attaining the objectives laid down. His delegation was, however, prepared to support the draft resolution.

8. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) supported the draft resolution, on the understanding that the Economic Committee would proceed essentially on the basis of agreements reached or likely to be reached before the second Development Decade started, and that disagreed and contentious matters which were the responsibility of other forums would not be raised. It was important that the Economic Committee in the discharge of its task should proceed by consensus and eschew rigid positions and disagreements expressed in votes.

9. Mr. KRISHNAN (India) endorsed the United Kingdom delegation's statement, but added that questions coming within the Council's competence would, of course, be examined by the Economic Committee.

10. Mr. de SEYNES (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) informed the Council that the Office of Conference Services at Headquarters had agreed to a meeting of the Economic Committee being held during the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, providing arrangements were made between the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the Council at its resumed session, and the Economic Committee; it would be desirable for those arrangements to be made at the beginning of the General Assembly session.

Draft resolution I was adopted unanimously.

II. MOBILIZATION OF PUBLIC OPINION IN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REGARDING THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

11. Mr. BRILLANTES (Philippines) said that the three delegations which had abstained from voting in the Economic Committee (470th meeting) would agree to vote for the draft resolution if it were modified by the addition of a new first preambular paragraph, worded as follows: "Taking note of resolution I", and by the insertion of the words "in pursuance of the said resolution" after the words " to be adopted " in the existing first preambular paragraph.

12. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation, which had abstained from voting in the Economic Committee, could vote for the draft resolution, as thus amended, for it would indicate clearly who would formulate the principles, directives and guidelines for action to be adopted in the second Development Decade.

13. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) endorsed those remarks.

14. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) drew attention to the apparent contradiction in operative paragraph 1, in which the attention of the Governments of Member States was drawn to the need for the mobilization of public opinion to ensure the greatest measure of participation of their policy-makers; it was difficult to see how a distinction could be drawn between the Government and the policymakers of the same country.

15. The PRESIDENT said that there was admittedly some repetition, but the purpose was to emphasize that the policy-makers of Member States would have to participate actively in work undertaken as part of the second Development Decade.

16. Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) said he would support the draft resolution, although he disapproved of its general tone, which seemed to imply that public opinion had remained untouched by and ignorant of development problems, and that was not the case. The draft resolution did not seem to have been fully thought out.

17. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on the amendments proposed by the Philippine representative.

The Philippine amendments were adopted.

Draft resolution II as a whole, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7

External financing of economic development of the developing countries

(a) International flow of capital and assistance

(b) Export credit

Report of the Economic Committee (E/4578)

18. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the Economic Committee's report on agenda item 7 (E/4578) and to vote on draft resolutions I and II contained in paragraph 13.

I. EXPORT CREDITS AND EXPORT PROMOTION IN DEVELOP-ING COUNTRIES

19. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) proposed that the part of the second preambular paragraph following the words "resolution 1270 (XLIII)" should be deleted to take account of the Council's decision at its forty-fourth session that only regional studies would be considered.

That amendment was adopted.

20. Mr. GREGH (France) said he would support the draft resolution, but wished to emphasize that the proposed time-table for the Round Table did not allow for the fact that the UNCTAD Committee on Invisibles and Financing was to examine the Secretary-General's interim report on export credits and export promotion in developing countries (E/4481 and Add.1) in February 1969. He considered that the Round Table should be attended by governmental experts and not by experts sitting in their individual capacity, and that there were more effective means of helping developing countries to solve their export credit problems than the seminars provided for in operative paragraph 4. Moreover, the two reports requested from the Secretary-General in operative paragraphs 3 and 5 seemed to overlap. Operative paragraph 3 could therefore be deleted and the following phrase added to paragraph 5: "in particular the conclusions made by the Round Table".

21. Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) supported that proposal, and thought that the paragraph could be further improved by replacing the words "as soon as possible" by the words "stage by stage".

22. Mr. de SEYNES (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) considered that the proposals of the French and Belgian representatives made the text clearer. The inclusion of multiple provisions requesting the Secretary-General to report to the Council was designed to ensure adequate control of Secretariat activities by governmental bodies.

23. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on the amendments proposed by 'the French and Belgian representatives.

Those amendments were adopted.

Draft resolution I, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

II. PROMOTION OF PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Draft resolution II was adopted by 20 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

24. Mr. BRUNI CELLI (Venezuela) said he had voted in favour of the draft resolution but would like to confirm his delegation's support of the view expressed by the Mexican representative in the Economic Committee that the importance of national situations should be recognized, and that they should be treated accordingly.

25. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to approve the draft text recommended in paragraph 12 of the Economic Committee's report.

26. In the absence of objection, he would assume that the text was adopted.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Tax reform planning and budget policy and management

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/4580)

27. The **PRESIDENT** invited the Council to consider the Economic Committee's report on agenda item 8 (E/4580) and to vote on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 8.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 5.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 11

Questions relating to science and technology:

(a) Draft resolution on the transfer of technology, submitted to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its second session

Report of the Co-ordination Committee (E/4567)

28. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the Co-ordination Committee's report on agenda item 11 (a) (E/4567) and to vote on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 5.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Reports of the regional economic commissions and of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut (concluded)

REPORT OF THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE (E/4569)

29. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the Co-ordination Committee's report on agenda item 14 (E/4569) and to vote on draft resolutions I and II contained in paragraph 8.

I. UNITED NATIONS EXPORT PROMOTION EFFORTS

30. Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (United States of America) observed that, according to operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations export promotion efforts would be submitted to the Trade and Development Board. But other bodies also had a part to play in that field. He therefore wished to be sure that the Secretary-General's report would also be transmitted to those bodies. He would like that point to be mentioned in the report of the Council to the General Assembly.

31. Mr. GREGH (France) considered that the provision of the draft resolution resembled those of resolution 1352 (XLV), which the Council had adopted at the 1559th meeting, for both proposals dealt with export promotion and the role which UNCTAD and the regional economic commissions could play in that field, and also provided for the submission of periodical reports to the Trade and Development Board and to the Council. He questioned the need for two resolutions on very closely related subjects. He would like to be sure that the two texts would be considered together in the future, and that that point would be covered in the Council's report to the General Assembly.

32. The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of any objections, that would be done.

33. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said he agreed with the French representative and hoped that it would be possible for the two proposals to be considered together during the General Assembly's deliberations. The favourable vote which his delegation was about to cast should not be interpreted as committing the United Kingdom Government with regard to any extension of the role of the executive secretaries' meetings, which might in future gradually develop into a standing co-ordinating body. That would involve a risk of duplication with the work of the ACC; that development must be prevented by drawing the attention of the appropriate authorities to the danger.

34. Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) found the comments made by the representatives of France and the United Kingdom relevant. However, the draft resolution under consideration dealt with questions of a practical nature which should be solved, whether within the framework of the Development Decade or not.

Draft resolution I was adopted unanimously.

II. TOURISM

35. The PRESIDENT recalled that the draft resolution had been unanimously approved by the Co-ordination Committee.

36. Mr. GREGH (France) said that, although the draft resolution had admittedly been unanimously approved by the Co-ordination Committee, he would point out that at the Committee's 360th meeting the French delegation had expressed a formal reservation concerning the fifth preambular paragraph, referring to the plans of the International Union of Official Travel Organizations to transform itself into an intergovernmental body. In the absence of instructions, the French delegation could not for the moment take a favourable position on that matter and he therefore requested a separate vote on that paragraph.

The fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution II was adopted by 18 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 18

Evaluation of programmes of technical co-operation

Report of the Co-ordination Committee (E/4570)

37. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the Co-ordination Committee's report on agenda item 18 (E/4570) and to vote on draft resolutions I and II contained in paragraph 7.

- I. APPLICATION OF ELECTRONIC TECHNIQUES FOR AUTO-MATIC DATA STORAGE, PROCESSING AND RETRIEVAL Draft resolution I was adopted unanimously.
- II. EVALUATION OF PROGRAMMES OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

Draft resolution II was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 28

Work programme of the United Nations in the economic, social and human rights fields and its budgetary implications

Report of the Co-ordination Committee (E/4574)

38. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the Co-ordination Committee's report on agenda item 28 (E/4574) and to vote on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 4.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 29

Calendar of conferences and meetings for 1969 and 1970

Report of the Co-ordination Committee (E/4566)

39. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the Co-ordination Committee's report on agenda item 29 (E/4566) and to approve the draft calendar of conferences and meetings in 1969 and the tentative calendar of meetings in 1970 annexed to the report.

40. Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (United States of America) noted that, in paragraph 3(f) of the report, a two-week session in February 1970 was scheduled for the Population Commission. His delegation had requested in the Coordination Committee (356th meeting) that that session should take place instead in October 1969. That proposal had been rejected by 13 votes to 2, with 8 abstentions and it had been agreed that it would be re-examined by the Council. He pointed out that most of the Council's functional commissions were to hold their sessions in February and March 1970: if the session of the Population Commission were held in October 1969, that heavy programme would be lightened and pressure on delegations eased. He therefore formally proposed that change of date.

41. Mr. FORTHOMME (Belgium) pointed out that adoption of the United States representative's proposal would affect the calender for 1969. Furthermore, the General Assembly would be holding its twenty-fourth session in the autumn of that year. The change of date would cause complications, especially with regard to documentation.

42. Mr. GREGH (France) said his delegation would accept the United States proposal if the session in question were held at Geneva.

43. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta) said that his delegation had opposed the choice of Geneva in the Co-ordination Committee (356th meeting), because of the difficulties that would face small delegations if a session of the Population Commission were held at Geneva at the same time as the General Assembly session in New York.

44. Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (United States of America) said his delegation was in favour of Geneva because the Commission could be provided with the necessary services there more easily than in New York. With regard to the

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Belgian representative's objection, the documentation for a session held in the autumn would be ready before the General Assembly session.

45. Mr. LOBANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the Secretariat for some indication of the financial implications of the change of date proposed by the United States.

46. Mr. KASSUM (Secretary of the Council) said that the Population Commission's session would normally have been held in autumn 1969; the Commission itself had proposed that it should meet in 1970. The additional financial implications would be entailed by holding the session in Geneva in 1969.

47. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the United States proposal that the session of the Population Commission should be held in November 1969 at Geneva.

The proposal was adopted by 12 votes to 2, with 9 abstentions.

The calendar of conferences and meetings in 1969 and the tentative calendar for 1970, as amended, were approved.

The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.