



**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, Morocco, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America.

Observers for the following Member States: Austria, Brazil, Cuba, Italy, Japan.

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

**AGENDA ITEM 15**

**Measures taken in implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (E/4306 and Add.1-3)**

**REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (E/4373)**

1. Princess Ashraf PAHLAVI (Iran) said that her country fully supported the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 20 December 1963<sup>1/</sup> and had signed the International Convention on the subject,<sup>2/</sup> which had resulted from the work of the Commission on Human Rights. She paid a tribute to the Commission, and also to the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa for assembling full documentation of the problem of racial discrimination and for organizing seminars to draw attention to its less well-known aspects.

2. Racial discrimination had never been known or practised in Iran throughout its 2,500 years of history. Under the Empire established by Cyrus the Great,

<sup>1/</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 15, resolution 1904 (XVIII)*.

<sup>2/</sup> *Ibid.*, *Twentieth Session, Supplement No. 14, resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.*

all persons had been considered equal, no racist practices had been permitted, religious tolerance had been the rule and those who had suffered from segregation elsewhere had sought the protection of the Empire. That tradition had been scrupulously maintained. Under the present Constitution, certain customary rights were granted to many citizens of other ethnic stocks or different religions. In the United Nations, Iran had always spoken out unequivocally against the discriminatory practices still prevailing in many parts of the world.

3. Seminars, such as the seminar on apartheid held at Brasilia in 1966, were very useful in publicizing the evil consequences of discriminatory and racist practices. She wished every success to the International Conference or Seminar on Apartheid, Racial Discrimination and Colonialism in Southern Africa, shortly to be held at Dar es Salaam, and the seminar on racial discrimination to be held in New Delhi in 1968. Her delegation supported the idea that there was a relationship between colonialism and racial discrimination.

4. World public opinion was not yet fully aware of the extent of the problem of racial discrimination and the widest possible publicity should be given to it. Her delegation appealed to those States which had not yet signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to do so as soon as possible so that the Convention could enter into force. Steps should also be taken to ensure that articles on, or at least references to, world action taken against racial discrimination appeared in the Press of all countries. She hoped that the example set by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in adopting the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education and, in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation, a Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, would be followed by other members of the United Nations family. Such measures, on the international, regional and national levels, would do much to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination and enable men to live side by side in equality. Those were the objectives of the United Nations Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and she hoped that they would soon be attained. As the Shah in shah of Iran had said, until mankind had become united and discrimination had been eliminated, danger and tension would continue to exist.

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**United Nations programme in public administration (E/4296, E/L.1158 and Add.1)**

5. Mr. RANKIN (Canada), introduced draft resolution E/L.1158 on behalf of Canada, India, Kuwait, Libya, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sweden and Turkey.

6. His delegation warmly welcomed the report of the meeting of experts on the United Nations programme in public administration (E/4296) and fully agreed with the Secretary-General<sup>3/</sup> that it confirmed the view that sound public administration was essential for nation building and for economic and social development. The report contained a succinct but comprehensive appraisal of the existing programme and an excellent series of directives on priorities and new directions which should guide the programme in the future, and made a soundly argued plea for more funds and more staff to meet the demands in the years to come. All fourteen experts had endorsed the report and he hoped that its recommendations would receive the same unanimous support in the Council.

7. The report concentrated almost exclusively on realistic suggestions for United Nations action in public administration and gave general endorsement to the past and projected work programme. The Public Administration Branch should be praised for its work in sometimes difficult circumstances. A recurring theme throughout the report was that effective public administration was essential for the success of economic and social development programmes in the developing countries and public administration should therefore be regarded as an "impact area" of United Nations activity.

8. The report also drew attention to the intrinsic differences of constitutional arrangements in various countries, which necessarily affected the structure of United Nations assistance, and the need to pay more attention to the administrative needs of local and regional governments. The section relating those points to development planning and plan implementation was one of the most cogent in the report and would be sufficient by itself to justify greater attention to public administration activities in the United Nations. As was clear from chapter V of the report, however, there had been a sharp decline in funds expended on public administration activities since 1964, despite a marked increase in the total resources of the United Nations system for development activities. In 1965, the Public Administration Division had been reduced to the status of a branch in the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations and there had been a decrease in the number of professional staff from sixteen in 1964 to twelve in 1967.

9. One of the main purposes of the draft resolution was to ensure that public administration was not neglected in the future. Under operative paragraph 2, the Council would decide, on the basis of the recommendations of the experts, that public administration should be given priority in planning for the period following the United Nations Development Decade. With reference to operative paragraph 3, he explained that the Under-Secretary for Inter-Agency Affairs had informed the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, at its forty-sixth meeting, that the Secretary-General would recommend in the budget estimate for 1968 that the Public Administration Division be re-established. Operative paragraph 4, *inter alia*, called for the collection, analysis and exchange of technical information in order to ensure

that the results of work done by many inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations was available to Member States in a form useful to the developing countries. With reference to operative paragraph 6, the priorities relating to regional and interregional projects were assigned by the Secretary-General and it was assumed that he would wish to have the Council's confirmation of the experts' recommendation in that regard. As to operative paragraph 7, there was no doubt that occasional meetings of experts would be the best way to ensure the continued excellence of the work of the United Nations in public administration.

10. There were some corrections to be made in the text of the draft resolution. The following new preambular paragraph should be inserted after the second preambular paragraph:

"Recalling further its resolution 1152 (XLI) of 4 August 1966 and General Assembly resolution 2218 B (XXI) of 19 December 1966 on the United Nations Development Decade."

In operative paragraph 6 the word "reserves" should be changed to "levels". Moreover, in the English, Russian and Spanish versions of operative paragraph 4, the words "and to the United Nations Economic and Social Office of Beirut" should be inserted after the words "regional economic commissions".

11. Iran had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, and he hoped that the text would commend itself to all the members of the Council.

12. Mr. SHAHI (Pakistan) said that it was gratifying to note that the meeting of experts had unanimously emphasized the need for further concerted action by the United Nations in public administration. Its recommendation that the subject should be given priority in economic and social development activities confirmed the views expressed both by the Council and by the General Assembly that sound public administration was an essential prerequisite to national development. The report of the meeting of experts quite rightly emphasized that United Nations activities in public administration should be realistically adjusted to the needs of the developing countries.

13. The establishment of sound administrative institutions in the developing countries would yield the greatest dividends and it could be achieved either by creating new institutions or by broadening the range or improving the performance of existing institutions. Improved methods of evaluation would also assist the countries themselves as well as the Public Administration Branch.

14. As the report point out, emphasis on planning for economic development as a means of accelerating economic growth was likely to focus attention on the need for major administrative reform. As his country could testify, plan formulation and plan implementation largely depended on the efficiency of the administrative system. The United Nations could, at the request of Governments, provide assistance in carrying out major administrative reforms and disseminate information about the experience of other countries.

<sup>3/</sup> See the note by the Secretary-General, p. iii of document E/4296.

15. The research activities undertaken pursuant to General Assembly resolution 723 (VIII) of 23 October 1953 should continue to be directly related to the problems of the developing countries. Many universities and learned societies, particularly in the developed countries, carried out research in comparative administration, although it was generally theoretical or related to the immediate national context, but the United Nations could make the results of such research, where appropriate, known to the developing countries and could undertake its own research programmes aimed at improving the administrative capacities of developing countries for economic and social development.

16. Since the developing countries could often learn more from the experience of other developing countries than from the advanced countries, their national training and research institutions should be used in appropriate cases for carrying out United Nations projects; experience could also be exchanged through the preparation of country studies. Some action had already been taken along those lines and he hoped that it would be intensified.

17. He trusted that the Council would endorse the experts' recommendation that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should give sympathetic consideration to requests for Special Fund assistance in public administration from the Governments of developing countries, since the Special Fund could help in establishing institutions to improve public administration in the developing countries and provide assistance in carrying out major administrative reforms.

18. The report rightly emphasized that the Public Administration Branch at Headquarters should have the status of a division or a centre and should be given adequate staff. That would give the public administration programme a place commensurate with its significance and would ensure effective management of the programme and adequate support for experts in the field. His delegation therefore welcomed the recent decision to upgrade the Public Administration Branch to a division.

19. He hoped that the Secretary-General would take into account the recommendations contained in the report when preparing the future work programme of the United Nations in public administration and that he would convene similar meetings of experts every few years to review the programme and report to the Council.

20. He commended draft resolution E/L.1158 to members because it set out clearly the guidelines to be followed by the United Nations to meet the needs of the developing countries in the field of public administration and because it stressed the importance for the 1970's by working out more specific objectives and programmes in order to avoid a repetition of the unfortunate experience of the current United Nations Development Decade.

21. Mr. VAN KELINX (Belgium) said that, while the United Nations programme in public administration had steadily developed and expanded since its initiation, the main emphasis of international co-operation had been placed on the economic and social factors of

development. However, experience showed that economic and social conditions could be improved only when given a sound administrative structure, particularly since economic planning was the preferred method of accelerating development. Therefore, expanding and strengthening public administration services was not an end in itself but an essential contribution to the development process. Belgium, which devoted a substantial part of its co-operation programme to public administration, welcomed the fact that the Council was now re-evaluating the United Nations programme in public administration.

22. He shared the general views of the meeting of experts concerning the degree of importance of public administration programmes and the need to improve international assistance for public administration and to help countries to carry out administrative reforms. He also agreed with the report of the meeting of experts as to the importance of financial administration, the usefulness of action at the local level and the desirability for the United Nations to do applied rather than basic research, as well as the need for more co-operation with the specialized agencies, other multilateral organizations, particularly the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and non-governmental organizations. The report failed to mention the need to harmonize international and bilateral programmes; but such co-ordination could perhaps best be done by the beneficiary countries themselves.

23. He agreed with recommendation (a) of the report of the meeting of experts (see E/4296, para. 114) that public administration should be accorded priority place in the Second United Nations Development Decade, although priorities would of course depend on the requests made by Governments. Recommendation (b) was of particular importance, since UNDP should be a prime mover in strengthening international activities in public administration. However, recommendation (c) represented a retrograde step; the General Assembly now determined allocations from the regular budget as a whole and he saw no point in changing that procedure. While he approved of recommendation (d) in principle, he would reserve his delegation's position on the financial implications of such action. Recommendation (e) would be useful, provided it involved the outposting of staff now in service and not the creation of new posts. Therefore, while he had no objection to the proposed travel costs set forth in the note by the Secretary-General (E/L.1158/Add.1) on the financial implications of the draft resolution, he would have to reserve his position on the proposals for the addition of two posts for each of the regional economic commissions.

24. The draft resolution took up most of the recommendations of the experts and clearly indicated guidelines for strengthening international efforts in public administration. He hoped, however, that adoption of the draft resolution would not involve any increase in the United Nations regular budget. Assistance should be sought from organizations such as UNDP, which operated on voluntary contributions, and from UNITAR.

25. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico) remarked that the report of the meeting of experts confirmed the prin-

principle that sound public administration at both the national and the local levels was of decisive importance for the success of all development plans. It also recognized that many developing countries lacked essential administrative structures to promote their development. The experts had identified three problems with regard to training: first, that training public administrators was a long process; secondly, that training had to take account of the individual characteristics of each country; and, thirdly, that those trained had to keep themselves abreast of all the new problems that arose as development proceeded.

26. Particularly important among the experts' recommendations were that public administration should be given the same priority in the United Nations as other substantive programmes, that it should have a separate section in the budget, and that the public administration unit should be restored to the status of an independent substantive division and its staff strengthened. The proposal for occasional regional meetings at which public administration experts could exchange information and experience, not only to help each other to solve national problems, but also to assist the United Nations public administration programmes might conflict with the principle that public administration must be viewed in the light of individual national characteristics. However, such meetings could be useful if the experts concerned came from countries which had a genuine common denominator. Financial administration should certainly be included in the United Nations programme; he was surprised that it had not been included before.

27. While he agreed with the experts that fellowships could help to accelerate the training of public administrators, it was usually difficult to find good candidates; moreover, if the fellowship covered an extended period, the cost also had to include a substitute's salary. It was also difficult to ensure that when fellows returned to their countries they received posts commensurate with their training, and that they were diverted into private enterprise.

28. The draft resolution was useful, although it should perhaps be clearer as to the financial implications. He would like to know what level had been attained for interregional and regional programmes in public administration when there had been a separate section for public administration in the United Nations budget.

29. Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (United States of America) stated that the report of the meeting of experts was to be commended for its forthright treatment of the various aspects of the United Nations programme in public administration. His delegation agreed with the experts that public administration was a crucial element in all activities to promote economic and social development and urged that it should be given the same importance and priority as other substantive United Nations programmes. Since public administration was often a sensitive area of domestic activity, many Governments were understandably reluctant to seek bilateral assistance and there remained a wide area in which the objectivity of the United Nations was needed. Particularly

important was the experts' suggestion that the public administration programme should concentrate on the Special Fund type of activity. That approach provided the high degree of continuity needed for institution-building, since training was a slow process, as the representative of Mexico had pointed out, and must take account of both local and national needs. That approach also ensured a greater commitment by the host country and the advantages inherent in the use of expert teams.

30. He fully endorsed the experts' recommendations that the Public Administration Branch should continue to act in concert with the specialized agencies and with non-governmental organizations. While periodic review of the programme was essential, it would seem more reasonable to conduct it not every four years, as the experts proposed, but rather when the Secretary-General deemed it appropriate. He strongly supported the proposal to upgrade the Public Administration Branch to the status of a division; the proposal demonstrated the increased recognition of the significance of public administration in the development process.

31. His delegation fully supported draft resolution E/L.1158 and would like to be included in the list of sponsors. However, with regard to the note by the Secretary-General on the financial implications of the resolution (E/L.1158/Add.1), the necessity that the proposed travel arrangements be financed outside of the regular budget was not made clear. He presumed that the meeting of experts described in section II would be convened as necessary and that a meeting would not be required in 1968. Travel requirements for regional seminars would have to be examined in the context of the general budget.

32. Mr. GEORGE (France) said that public administration activities were of fundamental importance in United Nations programmes. It was vitally important for the administrative element, comprising both administrative structures and trained personnel, to be of high quality, otherwise development activities could not be properly planned and implemented. Therefore, public administration deserved priority; only when public administration problems were solved would it be possible to derive full benefit from other development activities. The increased importance now being accorded to public administration activities was in line with one of the Council's objectives for 1967, namely, the development of human resources. Adequate public administration could be an element which strengthened the sovereignty of countries. In that connexion, while he did not oppose the use of personnel from the Programme for the provision of operational, executive and administrative personnel (OPEX), he felt it was better to provide advice to national administrations rather than personnel to work directly in those administrations.

33. He agreed with the experts that the United Nations role in public administration should be strengthened. The importance of that subject had in fact rather been overlooked in recent years, although in resolution 907 (XXXIV) of 2 August 1962, the Council had expressed the view that sound public administration was an essential prerequisite for the progress of the developing countries and had recognized the


need for closely co-ordinated action on the part of all United Nations organizations involved. He supported the recommendation that independent substantive status should be restored to the Public Administration Branch, and added that all its future research and operations should be aimed directly at assisting the developing countries. He supported the experts' recommendation regarding the inclusion of public administration posts in the regional economic commissions; where such units already existed, he hoped they would be expanded.

34. Since public administration must be integrated in the entire development process, the co-operation of the specialized agencies, and also of interested non-governmental organizations, was essential. As neither the funds nor the personnel of the Public Administration Branch were inexhaustible, all possibilities of enhancing the Branch's effectiveness should be explored. He therefore supported the experts' suggestion that UNDP should be asked to give higher priority to pre-investment projects designed to build effective public administrations in the developing countries requesting such assistance.

35. While his delegation would not oppose the proposal that the funds allocated to public administration under part V of the regular United Nations budget should be maintained or increased, it felt that the Council should not make precise recommendations with regard to one part of the budget without considering the rest of the budget, something it was not empowered to do.

36. The draft resolution was generally acceptable, but he proposed that the words "and the non-governmental organizations concerned" should be inserted after "system of organizations" in the penultimate preambular paragraph. He also suggested that the word "plans" in operative paragraph 3 should be replaced by "proposals", since no specific plans had yet been formulated. He agreed that the word "reserves" in operative paragraph 6 should be replaced by "levels" but reserved his delegation's position on the proposal to increase those levels until it had had an opportunity to see the entire budget.

37. In view of the importance of strengthening public administration activities, he supported the proposal for the establishment of three new professional posts in the Public Administration Branch. However, he was doubtful about the proposal to strengthen the public administration component of the regional economic commissions. He himself was unfamiliar with the present composition of the commissions and, in any case, felt that proposals so specific should be considered by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly rather than by the Council. A temporary secondment of Headquarters personnel might be preferable.

38. He supported the experts' recommendation for the holding of quadrennial meetings, and had no objection  future expenditure of \$24,820 for that purpose.

39. Mr. AKSIN (Turkey) considered that sound public administration, like education, could have a tremendous effect on a country's economic and social development. While the establishment of a national

airline or the construction of a modern factory was more tangible evidence of progress, improvement in public administration was less easily discernible by the public and hence Governments had usually given it lower priority. That tendency had probably slowed down the development of a considerable number of developing countries.

40. No matter how well it was formulated, a development plan was effective only if it could be carried out, a task requiring efficient public administration. His own country's experience had shown that delays in carrying out particular projects were due less to a lack of financing than to administrative difficulties. Since most developing countries must strengthen their public administrations, United Nations assistance in that direction was appropriate. Despite its modest resources, the United Nations had already carried out an impressive programme in that field, in particular by issuing publications and sponsoring seminars and conferences. The assistance it had rendered in the establishment of schools and institutes dealing with public administration was particularly noteworthy. One of the first such institutions was the Public Administration Institute for Turkey and the Middle East, which had been founded in 1952 as part of the University of Ankara and which had benefited from the services of no fewer than twenty-four United Nations experts. The Institute conducted research, provided post-graduate and in-service training and assisted with the administrative reform now under way.

41. The meeting of experts held at Headquarters in January 1967 had provided an opportunity to review past United Nations operations, to identify the special problems confronting developing countries and to formulate recommendations for making United Nations assistance more effective. In general, his delegation endorsed the experts' recommendations and agreed that public administration should receive greater attention from Governments and international organizations than in the past. The United Nations Development Programme could respond to the needs of developing countries in that respect for providing technical assistance and undertaking Special Fund projects aimed at setting up training and research institutions. While he agreed that adequate funds should be earmarked under the regular programme for technical assistance for interregional and regional projects in public administration, he thought it would be inadvisable to devote a separate section in part V of the budget to public administration, as that would deprive the Secretariat of the necessary flexibility in meeting requests of Governments according to their own priorities. He supported the proposal that the Public Administration Branch should be made a division and that its staff should be reinforced to respond more adequately to increasing needs. It would also be useful to add public administration units to the regional economic commissions in the areas where most developing countries were situated.

42. United Nations activities in public administration should be carried out in close collaboration with the specialized agencies and interested non-governmental organizations. He shared the experts' doubts about

the establishment of an international staff college to train senior administrators, because the particular requirements of countries at different stages of development could not be met by the short-term courses such a college would offer. In his view, it would be better to provide in-service training for senior officials in subregional training institutions.

43. The studies suggested by the experts in paragraph 95 of the report (E/4296) should be undertaken only when there was an explicit request for them from a number of developing countries.

44. His delegation agreed on the desirability of holding further meetings of experts in order to review public administration activities.

45. Since its views were reflected in the draft resolution, his delegation had joined in sponsoring it.

46. Mr. TEVOEDJRE (Dahomey) supported the main lines of draft resolution E/L.1158. In particular, he felt that, since public administration was so vital to the development of the developing countries, United Nations activities in that field should be strengthened, and the Public Administration Branch should be upgraded to division status.

47. With regard to the question of out-posting staff, referred to in document E/L.1158/Add.1, he wondered whether the "one local level post" which it was proposed to add to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for

Africa would be a professional or a general service post. If it were the latter, it was doubtful whether the holder of the post would be able to make a positive contribution to the solution of public administration problems. He hoped that the persons sent to fill the professional posts to be added to the regional economic commissions would not be officials being rewarded for their long service by a promotion for which they were not qualified at Headquarters.

48. He was concerned to note that the Public Administration Branch included no official familiar with the problems and structure of public administration in French-speaking countries or capable of servicing the needs of such countries. The Secretary-General should make specific proposals for filling that gap through the recruitment of suitably qualified officials. The problem also occurred in the regional economic commissions. Although the majority of African countries were French-speaking, experts were sometimes sent to ECA who neither knew French nor were familiar with the political, administrative and economic conditions in the area. That deficiency, too, should be remedied. For those reasons, he hoped that the sponsors of the draft resolution would make the words "qualified staff" in operative paragraph 4 more precise.

49. The Secretariat should also bear in mind that the recruitment of experts from developing countries for service at Headquarters provided a valuable opportunity for incidental training and should recruit African experts in their due proportion.

*The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.*

