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at 10.40 a.m.

PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

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President : Mr. A. MATSUI (Japan)*Present* :

Representatives of the following States, members of the Council: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, France, Gabon, Iraq, Japan, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Representatives of the following States, additional members of the sessional committees: Cameroon, Denmark, Ghana, India, Iran, Madagascar, Mexico, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania.

Observers for the following Member States: Australia, Bulgaria, China, Greece, Italy, Norway, Philippines, Zambia.

Observers for the following non-member States: Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Health Organization.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Adlai Stevenson, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations

1. The PRESIDENT said that the news of the untimely death of Mr. Adlai Stevenson had been received with a profound sense of shock and with deep sadness. In the name of the Council, he asked the leader of the United States delegation to convey the heartfelt condolences of all members to the Government and people of the United States of America and to Mr. Stevenson's family.

2. It was unnecessary to recall Mr. Stevenson's outstanding career, for, as journalist, barrister and member of the United States Government he had made a profound impression. When Governor of Illinois, he had become so attached to his duties, with the opportunities they gave

him for direct contact with the people, that his whole personality had received the imprint of his office and he liked to be addressed as "Governor Stevenson" even after becoming Ambassador. Everyone remembered the presidential election campaigns of 1952 and 1956 and the enthusiasm which his speeches had aroused among the people.

3. Mr. Stevenson's record spoke for itself and there was no need to attempt to make a hasty selection of his achievements; but the role he had played in the foundation of the United Nations at San Francisco in 1945 could not be passed over in silence. Later, as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Mr. Stevenson had been active wherever his duties had called him: in the Security Council during the Cuban crises and the crises in the Congo, the Dominican Republic and Viet-Nam, in the various disarmament conferences and at the signature of the Moscow Treaty of 1963, banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water. His unshakable devotion to the cause of the United Nations was known to all. He had been indomitable in vicissitude and modest in the hour of triumph; he had had but one concern — the maintenance of peace in accordance with the ideals of the Charter.

4. The statement he had made in the 1375th meeting of the Council on 9 July would be his testament. In concluding it, he had evoked the ideal of human interdependence and had said: "We travel together, passengers on a little space-ship, dependent on its vulnerable reserve of air and soil; all committed for our safety to its security and peace; preserved from annihilation only by the care, the work, and, I will say, the love that we give to our fragile craft. We cannot maintain it half fortunate, half miserable, half confident, half despairing, half slave — to the ancient enemies of man — half free in a liberation of resources undreamed of until this day. No craft, no crew can travel safely with such vast contradictions. On their resolution then depends the survival of us all".

5. His memory would always remain with the United Nations as that of a resolute enemy of injustice, a champion of the cause of equality between the nations, a protector of the weak and afflicted, a persuasive worker for human rights, and above all a faithful guardian of the ideals of the United Nations Charter. His name would be inscribed in the annals of posterity.

On the proposal of the President, the members of the Council observed a minute's silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Stevenson.

6. Mr. RAE (Canada) said that the Canadian delegation, Government and people, like all others throughout the

world, shared the deep sense of loss at the passing of Mr. Stevenson, who had been a distinguished ambassador and representative of the United States of America to the United Nations. They had long admired the courage, spirit, and immense ability he had shown throughout his career of public and international service, but above all they had admired his profound humanity and his deep conviction that a world of peace and freedom could be built through the painstaking day-to-day work of international co-operation. Only a few days previously, he had once again advocated the causes in which he believed and had set higher goals for continued effort, at what he hoped would be a turning-point in international co-operative endeavour. His humour, his insight into the future and his gifts of clear exposition had been evident then as always. His passing would be mourned far beyond the borders of his own country, wherever men and women were working for the ideals of one world and a single humanity. A renewal of effort by the peoples of the world towards the goals of the United Nations Charter and the practices of peace were the best tribute that could be made to his memory. The Canadian delegation extended its deep and abiding sympathy to Mr. Stevenson's family, to his close colleagues in the Government and to the people of the United States of America and of the world, who had lost a great fighter for peace.

7. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of India, Iran, Japan and Pakistan, said that it was a very sad moment for all concerned. Mr. Stevenson had been one of the great contemporary Americans and had personified some of the best traditions in American life: idealism, vision, and courage. He had been a true progressive with roots deep in the soil of his own Mid-West, which had been the cradle of some of the great humane and progressive traditions that had manifested themselves at the end of the preceding century and the beginning of the present one. He had gladly espoused the causes of justice, freedom and well-being in his own country, and had been very close to his people. The people had always responded when Mr. Stevenson's name was mentioned or when he rose to speak, as at San Francisco less than a month before.

8. He had had the privilege of working with Mr. Stevenson ever since he first came to the United Nations in 1961, a most fateful year in which crisis had succeeded crisis and the whole future of the Organization had been at stake. Mr. Stevenson had discharged his responsibilities with matchless eloquence, great ability, wit and humour and, above all, with a big heart. It was never easy to be the representative of a great power in the United Nations, but Mr. Stevenson had borne the heavy burden with courage, forbearance, fortitude and, above all, with a firm belief in the United Nations and what it stood for. As one who had attended the birth of the United Nations in San Francisco, he had remained a firm believer in the Organization and in its capacity to remedy some of the most persistent ills of mankind, as well as in the possibility of setting the world gradually upon the road to peace and better understanding among the peoples.

9. He would be missed in the United Nations. His speeches had been a delight even when it was not possible

to agree with him; he had always made it clear exactly where he stood, and he had been an eloquent spokesman of his country on all world problems.

10. The countries on whose behalf he was speaking extended their condolences to Mr. Stevenson's family, to the United States delegation and to the Government and people of the United States of America.

11. Mr. BOUATTURA (Algeria), speaking also on behalf of the delegation of Cameroon, Gabon, Madagascar and the United Arab Republic, said that the news of Mr. Stevenson's sudden death had come as a deep shock to members of the Council. The United States of America and the world at large had lost a great statesman, and the Members of the United Nations had lost one of their most outstanding colleagues and dearest friends. Mr. Stevenson had won the respect of all for his outstanding human qualities; and the prestige he had enjoyed had been due as much or more to them than to his position as spokesman of a great Power. An observer had rightly noted that from that statesman with the ready smile, which was sometimes ironical but never contemptuous, from his courtesy of manner, which had the art of remaining simple without ever lapsing into familiarity, there emanated a great charm combined with humanity. Such was the man whom history would regard as one of the last apostles of the New Deal, a man who had always shown a concern for truth and justice, even at the most difficult junctures of his country's foreign policy.

12. The delegations on whose behalf he was speaking wished to express their deep sympathy with the United States delegation, the United States Government and Mr. Stevenson's family in their grievous loss.

13. Mr. BILLINGHURST (Argentina), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of Chile, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru, expressed their deep sadness at Mr. Stevenson's unexpected death.

14. The Council had lost a true friend. In such circumstances biographical details tended to detract from the poignancy of memory, and perhaps the best form of homage would consist in the attempt to describe what the man had stood for and to express the emotion with which his memory was evoked. It was too soon, however, to attempt to do either, for the members of the Council had still not recovered from their surprise and shock on receiving the sad news of his death.

15. At times when, amidst the confusion and complexities of the world, people seemed to have lost their sense of proportion, and when their spirits were overwhelmed by a sense of impotence before the accumulation of events and adversities, Mr. Stevenson had called forth the admiration of all by his faith and energy, and by his precise sense of where the true path lay—a sense which he possessed not only as a gift of nature, but as a result of his wide culture and extensive experience of world affairs. His profound faith in democracy, too, had enabled him to point out the true course and propose appropriate solutions. His efforts to build a bridge of reconciliation between opposing positions and ideologies deserved special emphasis.

16. In the name of the delegations on whose behalf he was speaking, he wished to express heartfelt condolence to the Government and people of the United States of America and to Mr. Stevenson's family.

17. Mr. JEANNENEY (France), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of Austria and Luxembourg, said that Mr. Stevenson's sudden death had caused a profound shock. Only a few days previously he had shown in his statement to the Council a loftiness of thought which had been felt by all. His death was a deep source of sadness because it deprived the United States of a universally esteemed man who, in spite of his many responsibilities, had found time to come to Geneva and address the Council, which he considered an essential organ of the United Nations. He had placed high hopes in the United Nations and had always been its ardent advocate.

18. They were also saddened by the sense of loss which the United States of America had suffered in the person of one of the great figures of its public life. Mr. Stevenson had combined the best human qualities with courtesy, deep culture and distinction, both in the service of his own country and of the highest human ideals.

19. The delegations on whose behalf he was speaking requested the President of the Council to convey to the President of the United States and Mr. Stevenson's family their most sincere condolences.

20. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, at the outset of the current session, he had not expected to have the grievous task of joining with other delegations in paying tribute to the memory of Mr. Stevenson. He had known Mr. Stevenson since the foundation of the United Nations at San Francisco and had admired his erudition and wide intellectual range. Although he had not always found it possible to agree with Mr. Stevenson's statements in the United Nations, particularly on recent occasions, he had always recognized his lofty ideals. The speeches Mr. Stevenson had made when a candidate for the presidency, and some of his other great speeches, would be remembered for the emphasis they placed on the need for close international co-operation for the maintenance of peace.

21. On behalf of his own delegation and of the delegations of Czechoslovakia and Romania, he expressed sincere condolences to Mr. Stevenson's family and to the United States delegation in their sad and unexpected loss.

22. Sir Keith UNWIN (United Kingdom), speaking also on behalf of the delegation of Denmark, joined in mourning the loss of a well-loved leader of the United States Mission to the United Nations and in expressing sympathy with the United States delegation.

23. Other speakers had referred to Mr. Stevenson's career in the United States of America and his services to the United Nations. His humanity, eloquence and patience in the face of difficulties, and the great work he had done in the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, called for special mention. Mr. Stevenson had been a man of great wit, but it had never been used unkindly; it had always reflected his

essential humanity and had endeared him to all who knew him.

24. Mr. Stevenson had died in the service of his country and of peace, as he would undoubtedly have chosen to do.

25. Mr. TIBAZARNA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, however inadequate his words might be to express his delegation's deep sorrow at Mr. Stevenson's death, the feeling behind them was no less strong and sincere for that. Mr. Stevenson had been held in great esteem as a person whose qualities were recognized, not only in the United States of America but in the United Nations and throughout the world. He wished to convey his delegation's condolences to the United States delegation, to the United States Government and to Mr. Stevenson's family in their sad loss.

26. Mr. AKWEI (Ghana) said that the sad news of Mr. Stevenson's sudden death had come as a great shock to his delegation. Only a short time before, the Council had been treated to that rare combination of wisdom, understanding and eloquence, to which its members had become accustomed over the years. For many people Mr. Stevenson symbolized that better face of the United States of America which was still struggling to assert itself. He had been an admired intellectual, a great liberal and a genuine internationalist. He had been a good United Nations man, bringing to his work great qualities of mind and heart. Even when it had been impossible to agree with him, on occasions when he had had to defend unpopular causes, there had been no doubting the sincerity of the man and his deep passion for peace and human understanding. His death was a great loss, not only to the United States of America but also to the international community. He would have an assured place in history as one of the great architects and advocates of the United Nations.

27. On behalf of the Government and people of Ghana, his delegation wished to convey their deep sympathy to the United States delegation and through it to Mr. Stevenson's family and the entire people of the United States of America.

28. Mr. WILLIAMS (United States of America) said that, on behalf of his delegation and the President and people of the United States of America, he wished to thank the delegations who had spoken with such affection and warmth of Mr. Stevenson.

29. It took some time to feel the full effect of such a loss, but he believed that the world was already a little poorer because of Mr. Stevenson's death. The United States of America had lost a leader and the United States delegation to the Council both a leader and a friend. Mr. Stevenson had been taken from them before he was able to give the full measure of his abilities and his love of mankind and to make his full contribution to overcoming world problems. Although the people of the United States of America would like to claim him as their own, he belonged to the whole world and all its peoples. His spirit was still with the Council in its work and his memory would live on in the hearts of all those who had

known him and had had the great privilege of working with him.

30. His delegation would convey to the President of the United States of America and to Mr. Stevenson's family the condolences which had been expressed. He felt sure that Mr. Stevenson would be best remembered, not as a politician or a statesman, but as a great human being.

31. A speech which Mr. Stevenson had made on United Nations Day in 1952 was perhaps the finest expression of his hopes and philosophy and his beliefs about the future of mankind: he had said that he believed there was on the horizon, as yet only dimly perceived, a new dawn of conscience and in the pure light people would come to see themselves in each other and to make themselves known to one another by their similarities rather than their differences; when that occurred man's knowledge of things would begin to be matched by his knowledge of himself.

The meeting was suspended at 11.25 a.m. and resumed at 11.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 13

Reports of the regional economic commissions (E/4004, E/4005, E/4031, E/4032/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1, E/4075 and Corr.1, E/4080, E/4093; E/L.1083 (continued))

32. Mr. JEANNENEY (France) said that the Council's debate on the reports of the regional economic commissions could make an effective and important contribution to the development process. The Council was a forum in which the confrontation of differing viewpoints could lead to a clearer idea of aims and means. The reports now before the Council were undoubtedly an important contribution to members' knowledge of economic problems in the four regions.

33. ECE was the only body where a confrontation of ideas between East and West could be fruitful, and it had a particularly important role to play today when relations between East and West were being intensified. It was contributing not only to the prosperity of the European region but also to the development of methods and techniques which were equally valid for other continents.

34. He had been struck by remarks on the subject of economic integration in the statements introducing the ECLA and the ECA reports (1381st meeting). The term "integration" was seldom correctly defined, and it often seemed to mean a process whereby the economies of a group of countries could be made mutually complementary and dependent. Such a process implied the existence of the necessary transport networks. Those who favoured continental economic integration in Latin America and Africa had to face the fact that distances measured on maps did not always reflect economic realities. For example, it could be argued, on the basis of comparative goods transport costs, that two countries situated in different continents might be economically closer together than either of those countries with its own continental neighbours. To favour a policy of economic integration on a continental scale in defiance of such economic realities

would be tantamount to subordinating economic to political considerations, and the resulting economic measures would, in his opinion, be without real justification.

35. With reference to the remark made by the Assistant Deputy Secretary of ECLA to the effect that in Latin America the process of integration was already under way and moving along the right path, he wished to say that that was not the impression he had formed during a recent tour of the continent; customs barriers and import licensing still prevailed there. It was not clear from the Assistant Deputy Secretary's statement which was the "right path", but it seemed to lie in the direction, not of the more usual methods of a central planning authority or of a customs union, but rather of a system of negotiations between States concerning the location of industries and the bartering of advantages. In his opinion, such a system might work well in the case of a small group of two or three countries, but in the case of a larger group of countries many conferences might be held without integration being achieved.

36. While agreeing with much that was contained in the statement by the Executive Secretary of ECA, particularly on the description of problems and on some suggested solutions, he could not agree with the remarks about monetary problems and preferences. The passage concerning savings and capital investment seemed to imply that independent currencies and independent central banks were essential to the African countries. Central banks obviously had an important role to play, but, as the example of Luxembourg showed, a completely independent central bank was not a necessity to a country with a small population. Furthermore, exchange controls were not the answer to the problem of the shortage of domestic savings for investment in domestic enterprises, unless such controls were to be accompanied by strict frontier supervision and some form of totalitarian coercion. There was no evidence to show that, in countries which had voluntarily left the franc zone, accumulated savings were higher than in those which had chosen to remain in the franc zone.

37. In another passage, the Executive Secretary of ECA seemed to advocate a non-reciprocal general preference for all developing countries. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had not reached unanimous agreement on that subject. There were many powerful arguments against a system of general preferences: some developing countries would benefit from such preferences to a greater extent than others and, secondly, it was undesirable to offer inducements to developing countries to concentrate on exporting industrial products to Europe. France believed in a system of selective preferences by products and by countries. Such preferences should go to viable industries in developing countries where the greater part of the industrial output would be absorbed by the domestic or regional markets and the remainder could be exported to the more advanced industrialized countries so as to improve the foreign exchange earnings of those developing countries.

38. Lastly, the ECA Executive Secretary's remark that association between EEC and some African countries had

been recognized as an obstacle to economic co-operation among African States should not go unchallenged. The African countries associated with EEC were able to share in the prosperity of the EEC countries, and the prosperity of those African countries would inevitably be shared by their immediate neighbours on the African continent. The benefits of association with EEC should therefore not be condemned out of hand. France spent considerable sums of money in aid to the developing countries of Africa, and sentiments of human solidarity and the close ties formed during the past had to be invoked in order to still criticisms in some sections of the Press and in some political quarters hostile to the policy of continuing massive aid to the French-speaking States in Africa. It would be unwise, therefore, to destroy the basis of sentiment and idealism on which French aid to the African countries was built.

39. Sir Keith UNWIN (United Kingdom) expressed his appreciation of the wide-ranging, informative and encouraging reports by the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions. There had been a time when the Commissions had been regarded as outposts in relation to United Nations headquarters, and the Council had concentrated its efforts on strengthening their secretariats and resources. It was clear from the Secretary-General's report on decentralization of activities (E/4075) that the structure of the United Nations secretariat as a whole and the problems to be faced had changed so much that the term "decentralization" was no longer applicable, and it might therefore be dropped from the title of the report. He agreed with the analysis of problems which were assuming increasing importance (*ibid.*, para. 3). It would be useful for the Council to continue to receive an analytical study of the work of the commissions.

40. ECE had shown its value as a meeting point for East and West, particularly during the cold war period when other channels of communication in a divided Europe had been closed. The Commission still had valuable functions to perform and could continue to serve as a reservoir of experience and skills from which the developing countries also might benefit.

41. While under the leadership of Mr. Prebisch, ECLA had developed a certain intellectual independence. It was noteworthy that some of the Latin American countries which had made considerable progress in industrialization had relied mainly on the private sector. At the eleventh session of ECLA, held in Mexico City in May 1965, he had been impressed by the close working relationship and mutual trust between the ECLA secretariat and the member countries of the region. He approved of the form of presentation of the ECLA programme of work and priorities (E/4032/Rev.1/Add.1), which was an example that the other commissions might consider following.

42. Asia and the Far East, unlike Latin America, was a geographically scattered area with great political, racial and cultural diversity. ECAFE, which already had many achievements to its credit, was now entering upon a decisive phase of the Mekong basin project with the plan to establish the Asian development bank.

43. ECA covered a continent whose development presented enormous problems. Apart from the linguistic

and other differences dividing Africa, lines of communication had been drawn to serve as links with former metropolitan Powers and without regard to local and regional needs or convenience. But ECA was in a position to apply the newest ideas and techniques relating to the development process, as well as to centralize all kinds of multilateral assistance. At the seventh session of ECA, the United Kingdom delegation had been impressed by the evident effort to avoid sterile controversy and by the way in which the regional outlook had permeated the discussions. His delegation looked forward to taking part, whenever it was able to do so, in the proposed working parties on technical questions.

44. Mr. AKWEI (Ghana) congratulated the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions on their lucid and objective reports. His delegation was convinced that they would prove themselves equal to the task of expediting the economic growth of the developing countries and of attaining the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade.

45. ECA had rightly emphasized the importance of economic integration. Most of its activities related to development programmes involving a number of countries. By promoting a co-ordinated approach, ECA was reducing the dangers of isolated development; the advantages of economic integration had been clearly recognized in its report (E/4004).

46. Referring to the French representative's views on the development of transport in Africa, he failed to see how the cause of African integration could be furthered if lines of communication between two nearby points on the African continent continued to pass through London or Paris. The French representative had also implied that he saw no reason why the African countries should have their own national banks; surely it was not his contention that each African country should retain the foreign bank it had inherited from the previous colonial régime. In his view, the African countries had to work towards the establishment of a continental African bank, and not just national banks. The French representative had further mentioned the "contagiousness" of economic prosperity; but he had apparently overlooked the fact that the prosperity of the United States, for example, had certainly shown no signs of spilling over into neighbouring Latin American countries. On the contrary, the rich nations of the world were becoming richer and the poor ones poorer. Lastly, with reference to the French representative's remarks on preferential systems, he pointed out that the admission of certain African countries to associate membership in EEC was simply an economic extension of Africa's political experience, namely, its balkanization. African unity must be economic as well as political, and that objective could not be attained if fifteen or sixteen African countries were associated with EEC.

47. His delegation was somewhat concerned at the over-reliance of ECA, in its approach to integrated economic development, on "sub-regional" co-operation and co-ordination, which were in many fields quite inappropriate. For example, the sub-regional approach to the problems of African trade, monetary matters and payments unions would merely shift competition from

the national to the sub-regional level, whereas a single monetary and payments union backed by a single African common market would avert the competition. The sub-regional integration idea was also largely inapplicable to industry and to air and sea transport. Indeed, if Africa was to repair, effectively and rapidly, the serious damage it had suffered as a result of imperialism and colonialism, co-ordinated development must be pursued at continental level.

48. From the political point of view, over-reliance on a sub-regional approach to development might also ultimately impair African unity by fostering sub-regional loyalties. The best way of avoiding that danger would be for the African countries to take steps to create a larger and all-embracing loyalty to an Africa with a single government and destiny.

49. He hoped that the Secretary-General's recent remarks on relations between ECA and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (see E/4004, para. 265) would not be interpreted as suggesting a water-tight division of functions between those two bodies, or as advocating an arrangement under which OAU was regarded purely as a political organization and ECA purely as an economic body. Since the political unification of the African continent was only a means towards the end of rapid continental economic development, ECA should always take account of the objectives pursued by OAU. Indeed, ECA should take the initiative in submitting proposals likely to further the political, social and economic aims of OAU. His delegation, which favoured the closest possible co-operation between the two bodies had, at ECA's seventh session, sponsored a resolution requesting, in effect, the Executive Secretary to approach the Secretary-General of OAU with a view to defining and formalizing relations between them (*ibid.*, part III, resolution 132 (VII)).

50. The development of transport and communications was the key to Africa's economic growth. Intra-African trade was at present almost negligible in volume, largely because, under the old colonial system, communications had tended to fan out towards European markets. Furthermore, telecommunications in Africa had been designed to suit colonial needs. Hence, the development of transport and telecommunications in Africa should be accorded top priority in ECA activities. In that connexion, the initial inland transport surveys carried out by ECA should be consolidated into a preliminary transport plan for Africa as a whole.

51. While ECA, assisted by ITU, had also been active in that field, the time would seem to have come for ECA to concentrate on the provision of the equipment needed to establish a suitably integrated African telecommunications network. His delegation appealed to the international community to do its utmost to support that most important venture.

52. His delegation congratulated the Executive Secretary of ECA on his idea of working parties to see to the implementation of the Commission's decisions (*ibid.*, para. 291). It was also gratified at the work done by the two regional institutions recently set up to promote the integrated development of Africa, namely, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and the African Development Bank. The establishment of the Bank was a most important event since, apart from mobilizing investment capital and providing guarantees for foreign investors, it could be an effective instrument in co-ordinating development planning and promoting integrated development at continental level. He commended IBRD, the Special Fund and other international organizations for their help in establishing the Bank. His delegation hoped that the Executive Secretary of ECA, as well as the international organizations concerned, would continue to support and assist the Bank.

53. In view of the close inter-relationship between economic and social development, his delegation considered that the activities of all the regional economic commissions should be extended to cover social as well as economic matters so that the question of human rights, for example, could become their legitimate concern. Furthermore, since development programmes should be viewed in their entirety and not simply as individual economic projects, the regional offices of the specialized agencies should be closely associated with the regional economic commissions in the planning of development projects. His delegation therefore agreed with the remark of the representative of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions at the 1378th meeting that the regional economic commissions should be re-named "regional economic and social commissions", to reflect their true and enlarged functions. That change was the more necessary in that none of the executive secretaries' statements had mentioned social development in their respective regions, let alone developments in the field of human rights. The racialism practised in the Republic of South Africa and the suppression of human rights in Angola, Mozambique and so-called Portuguese Guinea, as well as the explosive situation in Rhodesia, which were the legitimate concern of the Council, could also become that of the regional economic commissions if their terms of reference were expanded to cover social matters. Pending a decision on the proposal for the appointment of a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (see E/4024, paras. 9, 13-25, and 29), acceptance of his delegation's suggestion to enlarge the scope and functions of ECA and of the other regional economic commissions to cover the social field would make it possible to take appropriate action immediately.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.