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*President:* Mr. MARAMIS (Indonesia)

## AGENDA ITEM 8

**Feasibility of creating an international corps of volunteers for development (E/4884, chap. VIII; E/4780; E/L.1346-1348)**

1. Mr. de SEYNES (Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that before commenting on the contents of the Secretary-General's report on the feasibility of creating an international corps of volunteers for development (E/4790), he thought he should make some general remarks on its context.

2. The idea of an international corps of volunteers had been mooted some ten years before, but had not materialized at that time. Since then the international atmosphere had developed and, though it was still not very satisfactory in many respects, it did at least allow the discussion of certain new forms of co-operation. Owing to the fact that the United Nations had adopted the consensus method of coming to decisions, innovations were slow to ripen but, once they had ripened, there was a firm basis for at any rate a modicum of success. The non-governmental organizations, which were not subject to similar constraints, were already using international volunteers, and were to be commended for that; their action was a stimulant for the United Nations. The specialized agencies, too, had already taken some steps in that direction, on which they should be congratulated.

3. The Government of Iran was to be commended for having chosen a favourable moment to revive the idea in the United Nations, and the members of the Economic and Social Council, of the General Assembly and of the Governing Council of UNDP were to be commended for having supported it. He would like to mention particularly Lord Caradon's enthusiasm for the project, which had stimulated his own thinking.

4. Passing to the Secretary-General's report, he would remark in the first place that it dealt with a limited project situated in a broad context. A United Nations volunteer programme would necessarily be minimal compared to

national volunteer programmes. In that connexion he pointed out that the United Nations must always bear the national programmes in mind; it could also help them by, for example, making information studies and comparative studies available to them. The international volunteers would have to make contact with the national volunteers with a view to concerted action. It was to be hoped, too, that the mere presence of international volunteers would act as a stimulus to the national volunteers. The international programme would, however, be a quite separate thing; it would meet a special need. Only national volunteers could meet the substantial needs of the developing countries which, in view of their social aspirations, required a great deal of voluntary staff in such departments as health and education.

5. Secondly, the international volunteers would be working for development, and the programme under discussion must in no way be confused with cultural exchange programmes and other similar programmes. The volunteers would be subject to the discipline of development projects, especially those of UNDP. They would be selected on criteria of competence and of "additionality" — in other words they must not displace local workers or other volunteers in the recipient country.

6. Thirdly, the international corps of volunteers would have another dimension: promoting world solidarity. Its international character would have to be stressed more strongly than that of other development programmes. In particular, the programme should not be one that moved exclusively from north to south, as was most often the case for the technical assistance and pre-investment programmes. Projects would consequently have to be devised which were suitable for such international action.

7. Fourthly, as the project concerned youth, it was to be expected that the young people would be critical. Account would therefore have to be taken of the priorities that the young people themselves chose; some of their ideas were far too downright but were nevertheless a good antidote to *Realpolitik*. The demands of purity upheld by youth would have to be kept in mind, and there must be no deviations, ill-conceived pressures or bureaucracy, with which young persons were, as was well known, extremely impatient — on that last point, the scheme might perhaps set an example to the United Nations as a whole.

8. It appeared from consultations the Secretary-General had held with the Administrator and resident representatives of UNDP, the specialized agencies and Governments that sixty-one countries wished to receive volunteers for projects executed with the help of United Nations bodies and forty-eight more would be able to use them also for other projects, and that 1,300 volunteers might be requested in June 1971. The Secretary-General was rec-

ommending that for the time being the volunteers should be assigned only to projects paid for by the United Nations. The Secretary-General and the Administrator of UNDP, also several Governments, doubted that the figure of 1,300 volunteers could be achieved.

9. The Secretary-General had also considered whether the corps of volunteers contemplated in resolution 1444 (XLVII) of the Economic and Social Council was really necessary, in view of the existence of programmes of national volunteers and volunteers from non-governmental organizations. He had found that a large number of young persons wished to work for the United Nations. They included young persons from the developing countries: they must not be forgotten. The participation of the latter in the programme would give rise to a problem of financing, and the Secretary-General was proposing that a special trust fund should be set up to finance their participation. The proposal might be open to objection, but the Secretary-General considered that the participation of young persons from the developing countries was an essential requirement. The corps of volunteers would be financed by the sending organizations, by the Governments, from the project budgets and, lastly, out of the trust fund referred to. If the Economic and Social Council decided in favour of the scheme, the Governing Council of UNDP would consider specific proposals on the modalities of financing the corps, together with those modalities' financial implications, in January 1971.

10. The Secretary-General was suggesting that a central office should be established for the corps of volunteers, to provide cohesion; it would enable a common policy to be operated and uniform standards and conditions of work to be devised, but would not entail centralization of programmes: programming would be done by the requesting country in accordance with the scheme laid down in the Capacity Study.<sup>1</sup> Since the volunteers would be participating in the execution of projects receiving assistance from United Nations bodies, United Nations experts would be advising them and would be responsible for the technical supervision of their work. Administrative control would be in the hands of the resident representatives of UNDP.

11. Flexibility must be the keynote in recruiting volunteers. The Governing Council of UNDP had decided in favour of a simple and flexible procedure in order to reduce the formalities between the request stage and the volunteers' arrival. The recruitment procedures of the non-governmental organizations were speedier than those of the United Nations, and should be taken as a model. The Governing Council of UNDP had also stressed the importance of qualifications in the selection of applicants, and that of training, which might be given in two stages: a course arranged by the sending organization, and a second, fairly brief, course to familiarize the volunteers with the activities of the United Nations bodies. The Secretary-General had not been able to supply much specific information at the present stage on methods for financing

the training; it might perhaps be financed in the context of regional projects, or else out of the project budgets.

12. In conclusion, the creation of an international corps of volunteers would only be a fractional activity, which should on no account be a substitute for other forms of action within the international development strategy. The scheme should not be expected, either, to meet all the wishes of young people; other forms of participation would have to be considered for them, especially in the context of constructive confrontation. The United Nations would not have settled its accounts with youth; at best it would have opened a constructive and on-going dialogue with it.

13. Mr. VAKIL (Observer for Iran), speaking at the invitation of the President, said he had already explained to the Council the importance that H.I.M. the Shah attached to the training of an international volunteer corps for development. The United Nations had adopted a great many resolutions that stressed the need to give young people an opportunity to work for causes supported by the Organization. Council resolution 1353 (XLV) — operative paragraphs 3 and 4 — was a case in point.

14. After reviewing the events leading up to the preparation of the Secretary-General's report (E/4790), he said that never before had youth had so strong a desire to participate in making a better world. In order to have the greatest possible appeal to young people, an international volunteer corps must be responsive to the desires of youth, while at the same time being conceived on practical lines. It must be, above all, universal, and yet be cohesive; it would consequently have to be administered by a central office responsible for administration, recruitment, selection, training and the formulation of standards.

15. Judging from information received from Governments and from the United Nations representatives in the field, the Secretary-General estimated that 1,300 volunteers would be asked for, to take part in United Nations projects. It was to be hoped that there would be far more volunteers than that. However, it would be wise to make a modest beginning, and then later on apply tested procedures on a wider scale. There were at present 600 volunteers working on projects receiving assistance from United Nations bodies; it was to be hoped that a number of them would join the international corps of volunteers. If results in keeping with the targets of the Second Development Decade were desired later on, a sufficient number of volunteers would have to be used, working in close co-operation with national youth groups and domestic volunteers.

16. He welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General had studied the question of domestic volunteers and considered it advisable for their activities to be co-ordinated with those of the United Nations volunteers. Over 1,200 domestic volunteers were working on government projects receiving United Nations assistance; the United Nations must make an immediate effort to increase that number and thereby ensure the training of more young people from the developing countries. The United Nations volunteers could help with that training. Iran would like to be the first country to invite a team of United Nations volunteers to come and work on its territory with young people

<sup>1</sup> *A Study of the Capacity of the United Nations Development System* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.70.I.10).

belonging to the Iranian development corps; Iran would be preparing a pilot project that would help to take the principles and procedures of the United Nations volunteers on a stage further.

17. Joint programmes of the kind he had referred to would help to ensure the participation of local youth in the new United Nations scheme; for the programmes' implementation the Secretary-General might consult organizations specialized in youth activities. When the Secretary-General came to make his report on the activities of the United Nations volunteer corps during the first year of its existence, it would be advisable for him to devote a chapter to the participation of youth. The Secretary-General had mentioned in his report (E/4790) certain organizations concerned with volunteer activities, and the activities of two of them were described in annexes to the report; the collaboration of both those organizations ought to be secured, subject to the purposes, principles and standards of the United Nations.

18. At the present stage the Secretary-General had given only general indications on the subject of administration, recruitment, training and financing. The central administration ought to be lodged in the premises of UNDP initially. In the matter of financing, no solution should be ruled out for the time being, provided it was in accordance with the principles established by the Council and set forth in the Secretary-General's report. Special provisions ought to be made to give young people from developing countries an opportunity to participate in the activities of the volunteer corps, otherwise it would not be truly international.

19. Iran approved the setting up of a trust fund, because that would be in the spirit of the United Nations initiative and would underline the importance of voluntary contributions from the non-governmental sector. If such a fund were set up, his Government would be among the first to subscribe to it. His Government also recommended that Governments, both those which were and those which were not members of the Council, should give the Secretary-General's other financial proposals favourable consideration.

20. Mr. SINGH (India), submitting the draft resolution of which his delegation was a sponsor (E/L.1346), reminded the meeting that his delegation had firmly supported the idea of creating an international voluntary corps within the United Nations system. At the forty-seventh session of the Economic and Social Council it had, together with other delegations, submitted a draft resolution, which became Council resolution 1444 (XLVII), on the subject. He also reminded the meeting that it was thanks to the generous initiative of H.I.M. the Shah that the idea of setting up an international voluntary corps for development had been able to make progress.

21. The Indian delegation was in favour of the basic objectives for the United Nations voluntary corps set out in paragraph 32 of the Secretary-General's report, also of the Secretary-General's suggestion that the voluntary corps might form part of the United Nations system and be

administered by UNDP. Accordingly, the sponsors of the draft resolution wanted the Economic and Social Council to request the Secretary-General to appoint a co-ordinator within the framework of UNDP and to invite organizations concerned with international voluntary service and youth organizations to continue to play a part in that field, in particular at the stage of volunteer recruitment. The administration of volunteer activities would, however, be entrusted to the co-ordinator, so that the corps should maintain an independent character.

22. The Indian delegation considered that an over-all volunteer training programme was not necessary, because volunteers sent to a third country ought to receive their training on the spot, which would make the training at once less costly and much more useful. Operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution concerned the establishment of a United Nations trust fund for the support of United Nations volunteer activities. The creation of that fund would be very useful, because it would be difficult for the developing countries to shoulder the additional financial burden of the volunteers' local living expenses or the travel expenses of their own nationals sent as volunteers to other countries.

23. In conclusion, the volunteers ought to be drawn from among nationals of both developed and developing countries.

24. Mr. ČABRIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that the young people of Yugoslavia, after having taken an active part in the liberation struggle, had worked with a will on their country's reconstruction and development, and especially on numerous infrastructure projects. The work done by young volunteers ought to be valued not only for the results it achieved but also because it was a kind of school in which young people acquired skills and got to know each other better. In Yugoslavia, voluntary work had always been open to young people from every country, providing them with opportunities for working together, exchanging ideas and striking up friendships. The activities of the youth organizations, both national and international, had increased understanding of development problems and made possible the organization of voluntary services, and the youth organizations ought on that account to have been more widely consulted during the preparations for the Secretary-General's report, seeing that the objective aimed at was the mobilization of young people for international co-operation to promote development.

25. The Yugoslav delegation, convinced that young people could play an important part in the general development effort, supported the idea of the United Nations volunteers. It considered that the volunteers' services ought to be based on the principle set forth in Council resolution 1444 (XLVII), operative paragraph 2: namely, that a volunteer scheme should consist of persons recruited on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and that no volunteer should be sent to a country without the explicit request or approval of the receiving country.

26. While in general agreement with the suggestions made in the Secretary-General's report (E/4790), the Yugoslav

delegation still did not quite see how the system would work in practice. The first problem was that of financing the volunteers. It had been proposed that the external cost of volunteers should be borne by the volunteer-sending organizations. Were that proposal accepted, only financially strong organizations would be able to recruit volunteers, and some organizations in the developing countries would not be able to take part in the proposed scheme. The creation of a trust fund had been proposed to set that right. His delegation was not against that proposal, but would like to be assured that the fund would have the necessary resources available.

27. Another important question was that of the volunteers' local living expenses. In principle the recipient country should meet those expenses, but if it were unable to do so some alternative solution would have to be found. Thus the problem of financing ought to be dealt with in more definite and specific terms. Although the volunteers would be working on projects financed by UNDP, to finance their services out of resources earmarked for a specific project would hardly be the best solution, for the volunteers would in practice be put on the same footing as experts or associate experts.

28. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that the creation of a corps of volunteers would enable the idealism and energy of youth in developed and developing countries to be canalized for the benefit of developing countries and provide an additional source of manpower for development. For many years, the United Kingdom had been sending volunteers abroad, and in the present year the number had reached 2,000. It was sensible to allot volunteers in the first place to United Nations sponsored projects. Then, in the light of experience, they might well be allotted to other kinds of projects later. It was of the greatest importance that there should be participation of volunteers from a wide geographical range of countries, including developing and developed countries.

29. His delegation considered that there was no need to set up a new organization to deal with the matter; the volunteers' activities should be administered by UNDP.

30. There were, however, some areas where the scheme was ill-defined and required further study. The reaction of developing countries to the idea of setting up an international corps of volunteers had been, it must be confessed, rather disappointing. It appeared from a survey made by the Secretariat that 80 per cent of the developing countries hoped that United Nations volunteers would come and work on United Nations sponsored projects, but that only a few were prepared to contribute to the volunteers' local living expenses. In other words the local expenses would have to be met out of the project funds themselves, with a consequent reduction in the amount of money available for other development projects in the countries concerned. Such a general attitude on the part of the developing countries did not seem to augur well for the scheme's future. However, judging from the debates in the Governing Council of UNDP, India appeared to be an exception to that general attitude, for its representative had told the

Governing Council that there were already 900 volunteers from 80 countries at work in India and that his Government was prepared to provide a maximum amount of living expenses and was already offering lodging and medical facilities.

31. It was also surprising to see how few Governments of developing countries were willing for their nationals to join the proposed United Nations volunteer corps. It was difficult to believe in the international nature of the volunteer corps if the volunteers were to come only from a small handful of countries.

32. Further thought was also required on the subject of the volunteers' recruitment. It was to be assumed that the volunteers would be recruited in the same way as UNDP recruited its experts. That was a slow, complex procedure, and would be quite unuseful for volunteers. The best solution would be to ask the recipient countries to decide which Governments or non-governmental organizations should submit candidate volunteers for given projects.

33. His delegation doubted whether the two specialized organizations which were co-ordinating international volunteer services ought to be asked to recruit the volunteers. They could act as clearing houses and establish rosters of candidates, but, as the Secretary-General had suggested, United Nations bodies ought to do the actual recruiting.

34. It was important that the volunteers should already possess all the necessary qualifications for the work they were intending to do. Their training should include study of the language of the country they were going to and an orientation course on adaptation to the new environment and the role of the volunteer. But the training period ought not to be unduly long. His delegation had noted with interest the Indian representative's suggestion that volunteers might be trained in the recipient countries, provided however that that did not mean training centres being set up in every recipient country. The matter could possibly be tackled on a regional or subregional basis.

35. In regard to financing, the volunteers' local living expenses ought to be met as far as possible by the Governments of the recipient countries, while the cost of recruiting the volunteers and their travel expenses should be met by the volunteer-sending organizations or countries.

36. His delegation was unable to agree with the idea of setting up a special trust fund to help finance the external costs of volunteers whose sending organization or Government was unable to meet them. Of the four developing countries willing to send volunteers to other countries, two had declared themselves prepared to contribute towards financing them. Furthermore, before setting up a fund of that kind it was necessary to be sure that it would attract new contributions from Governments and not merely divert money from other forms of aid. The United Kingdom fixed a ceiling for the total amount of aid it was prepared to grant each year. Lastly, the Administrator of UNDP was already empowered to receive contributions from non-governmental organizations and from individuals, and it would be possible for him to earmark the funds he received for purposes connected with the United Nations volunteers' activities.

37. Mr. BOYD (United States of America) said that a tradition of mutual aid had existed in the United States since its pioneering days, and the young people of his country had been assisting in the development effort of the United Nations since 1954, first as associate experts and since 1961 as volunteers. Since requests for volunteers greatly exceeded supply, the idea of setting up an international development corps of volunteers would seem to be amply justified.

38. The proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report clearly involved decentralization of the volunteers' activities, final authority for which would rest with the host countries and with the United Nations representatives in them. It was particularly interesting to note that the United Nations was not urging the setting up of a strong central body at Geneva or in New York.

39. His delegation was particularly pleased with the definition of the term "volunteer", and supported the principle that recruitment should be on a wide geographical basis and that the volunteers should work wherever feasible in multinational teams. The exchange of ideas between volunteers would promote better understanding between all the peoples of the world.

40. His delegation subscribed to the principles referred to in the Secretary-General's report to the effect that "no volunteer shall be sent to a country without the explicit request or approval of the receiving country", and that "United Nations volunteers must not, in any way, constitute competition to national personnel in local employment markets". It was to be hoped indeed that the main aim of the volunteer corps would be to encourage the setting-up of volunteer groups in the developing countries themselves.

41. His delegation also supported the idea that "the role . . . and the place of a volunteer in a United Nations-assisted project should be delineated at the time the project description and plan of operation are formulated". It would also be helpful if, as the Secretary-General had recommended, the relationship of the volunteer to experts and to counterpart personnel were clearly defined. Bureaucratic delays could be reduced to a minimum if participating countries co-operated effectively. Lastly, responsibility in the field must rest with the host country, not with the central body. The authorities responsible for programming in the host country would know best what needed to be done and how best to achieve the desired results.

42. His delegation approved of the financing procedures proposed in the report. If the United Nations chose to establish a trust fund, the fund should be used to underwrite the setting-up of a genuinely international corps of volunteers in which volunteers from developing countries could also serve. Should such a fund be set up, the United States hoped to contribute to it. For all the reasons he had mentioned, his delegation unreservedly supported the draft resolution submitted by the delegations of Greece, India and Pakistan (E/L.1346).

43. The total number of United Nations volunteers ought to depend upon the requests made by countries for their services. The volunteers should be recruited and trained to meet specific project demands.

44. With regard to management of the programme, a small central body should be set up to co-ordinate requests for volunteers from all countries, to decide upon training criteria, to seek financial support, to manage the funds and to establish priorities. UNDP might undertake to discharge those functions.

45. The co-ordinator appointed by the Secretary-General might be authorized to set up pilot projects in developing countries on their request, to establish working committees responsible for drawing up training programmes and for deciding upon recruitment criteria, and to seek the advice of voluntary organizations.

46. In conclusion, he hoped that the programme would make the widest possible use of the services of young people, both in its preparation and planning and in its implementation.

47. Mr. HUDA (Pakistan) reminded the meeting of the efforts that had been made, since the initiative of H.I.M. the Shah in 1968, to promote the idea of creating an international corps of volunteers. At the request of the Council the Secretary-General had, in consultation with the Administrator of UNDP and the heads of secretariat of the specialized agencies, studied the project's constitutional, administrative and financial implications. He had also entered into consultation with Governments: 80 per cent of the countries consulted had said that they would be interested in having United Nations volunteers participate in projects aided by United Nations bodies. Pakistan had not yet had time to send off its own reply, but it was prepared to contribute to the United Nations corps of volunteers.

48. In the sphere of financing, the report envisaged the establishment of a trust fund composed of voluntary contributions from Governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations and private individuals, to finance the external costs of the volunteers. The Pakistan delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that it was essential to establish a trust fund in order to secure as wide a geographical participation as possible. It was with those considerations in mind that his delegation had, together with the delegations of Greece and India, presented draft resolution E/L.1346. All interested United Nations bodies ought to participate in the project, but under the supervision of a co-ordinator whose task it would be to promote and co-ordinate the recruitment, selection and training of the United Nations volunteers, and the administrative management of their activities.

49. Youth ought to play an important role in an international corps of volunteers. Working together would enable young people to understand one another better. They would be enabled to play a greater part in the development efforts of the Second Decade and to use their energies for building a better world.

50. Mr. GORSE (France) said that he was glad the generous initiative of H.I.M. the Shah, in June 1968, had led the General Assembly and the Council to endeavour to find the most suitable ways of employing volunteers able to help nations to cope with the requirements of development.

51. The Secretary-General's report (E/4790) contained some excellent things. The Secretary-General drew attention, in particular, to the important steps which had already been taken in the field under consideration by a large number of organizations — voluntary, governmental and non-governmental — and recommended that maximum use should be made of the existence and experience of the specialized organizations which co-ordinated international volunteer service. Special mention should be made of the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service (ISVS) and the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS). Those bodies, which performed the valuable service of ensuring that the work done by national associations fitted in with the aims of multilateral co-operation, appeared to be willing to collaborate closely with the United Nations, which would, as a result, become one of the principal users of volunteers' services. The French Government had just recently decided to play a more direct part in the activities of ISVS by making it a financial contribution. But that was only a first step; France was also willing to consider any possibility conducive to enabling the members of the Council to adopt a common attitude in that field.

52. It might perhaps be difficult to reach a consensus if, right at the outset, the question of the advisability of creating a new international organ were brought up and a thorny discussion on its financing were to be embarked on. On the other hand, it ought to be possible to reach agreement on the actual principle of the United Nations' employing volunteers appointed through international associations and their member bodies. It would also appear to be possible to entrust the Secretary-General with the task of elaborating, in consultation with the Administrator of UNDP and in close liaison with interested international bodies, appropriate procedures for promoting and co-ordinating the recruitment, selection and training of the United Nations volunteers, and for the administrative management of their activities, in collaboration, of course, with the specialized agencies concerned. The French delegation reserved the right to submit written amendments to the draft resolution E/L.1346 on those two points.

53. If its two suggestions were accepted, the United Nations would be provided with a flexible and effective means of calling upon the services of international volunteers for development and it would be possible for the volunteers, speedily and under financial arrangements acceptable to all, to be made available to requesting countries and to take part in projects receiving United Nations assistance. That appeared to be the best way of achieving the common objective which was, in brief, to secure wider and more effective participation of "international volunteers" in the struggle for development in which all countries were taking part through the United Nations.

54. The PRESIDENT observed that in paragraph 1 of his report (E/4790) the Secretary-General said that he had consulted with the executive heads of the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service (ISVS) and the Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS).

55. In view of the important role played by those two bodies in the field of voluntary service, the President invited the Secretary-General of the ISVS and the Executive Director of the CCIVS to address the Council.

56. MR. von SCHENK (International Secretariat for Volunteer Service) said that his organization had 52 members, the majority of which were developing countries. It was in favour of the idea of an international volunteer service. The first international teams of ISVS volunteers had been formed seven years previously and the ISVS Council had decided substantially to expand its programme of multinational volunteer teams. ISVS accordingly welcomed resolution 1444 (XLVII) of the Economic and Social Council and the report of the United Nations Secretary-General.

57. Volunteers were an essential element in bilateral technical co-operation. On the one hand, it was becoming increasingly difficult to find enough experts. On the other, experts' traditional functions no longer sufficed. The struggle for development required not only planning, but also staff working in close contact with the local population and willing to live in the same modest circumstances as it was living in.

58. Development was a *sine qua non* for attainment of the primary purpose of the United Nations, namely peace. The war against under-development must be a global one, waged by all peoples and mobilizing all peoples. Youth had a vital part to play in the campaign. The younger generation wanted to engage in international action against under-development. It wanted to take part in action at the international level.

59. The problem was, how could the United Nations procure volunteers and what basic arrangements were required? First, the volunteers must meet the real needs of the developing countries; it was up to the Governments of those countries to ask for volunteers, and naturally foreign volunteers must never be used where national personnel able to do their work was available. Secondly, volunteers were different from regular technical co-operation staff. Thirdly, the volunteers and the countries needing them must be able to get in contact with each other speedily and easily. Efficient machinery for the establishment of that contact must be devised. Fourthly, although volunteers were an excellent proposition from the financial standpoint, since they were less expensive than experts, money still had to be found to finance the programmes. The administrative structure of any volunteer service must take those points into account.

60. Regarding the special nature and special spirit of the volunteers, it must be realized that they were not "normal" people; "normal" people worked for money, whereas volunteers worked for an idea. It was their conviction that, if they wanted to live in a better world, everyone ought to work to bring it about. The volunteers' goodwill and capabilities had, therefore, to be used to the full for tangible goals. In order to preserve the special nature of the volunteers, a special administrative instrument enjoying a large degree of autonomy was needed. If volunteer organiz-

ations were to be autonomous, it followed that the United Nations international corps of volunteers must also be autonomous, otherwise it would not be able to achieve its goal.

61. That autonomy must be supplemented by volunteers' active participation in decision-making. The youth of the world were refusing to play follow-my-leader: they wanted to have their say. In addition, the administrative structure must be sufficiently flexible to permit speedy and effective action. A possible solution would be for the United Nations to employ the two existing international organizations specialized in the volunteer field, namely ISVS and CCIVS, as executing agents. Then no new machinery need be set up. Both organizations had a number of years' experience.

62. It would be better not to have a centralized structure, but a federal one. The proposed central office of the United Nations volunteers could set standards, establish general policies and co-ordinate all matters to do with projects. Implementation, on the other hand, should be the task of existing organizations with the necessary experience. They should be responsible, in particular, for the volunteers recruitment, selection and language training. The United Nations should be responsible for the volunteers' subsequent training, for supervision of their work and for the administrative arrangements concerning volunteers in the field.

63. ISVS agreed in principle to the proposal of the United Nations Secretary-General concerning the financing of the international corps of volunteers. It considered that two-thirds of the volunteer costs ought to be borne by the volunteer-sending organizations or Governments. One quarter should be borne by the United Nations project, and accommodation should be the responsibility of the receiving Government. Additional arrangements would be required for financing the costs of volunteers coming from developing countries. The function of the trust fund would be a very important one. It would be there to enable developing countries to participate in the United Nations volunteer programme. The volunteers would be a very sound financial proposition for the United Nations and for the receiving Governments, since the cost of ten volunteers was about the same as that of one expert.

64. The federal approach advocated by ISVS should be applied not only to the financial arrangements, but also to the entire system. It would be necessary to establish close co-operation between all existing national organizations within the framework of the United Nations programme.

65. Another important question was that of domestic volunteers. They ought to be included in the United Nations volunteer scheme. The ISVS Council had suggested that the United Nations Secretary-General undertake a study on the subject. ISVS itself had supported the establishment of domestic volunteer services in a number of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The development effort could not be successful without a mass mobilization of all the peoples of the world.

66. He hoped the United Nations would have the courage and vision to create an international corps of volunteers, recruited from developing and developed countries alike,

which would be able to operate effectively and to fight under-development.

67. Mr. LEMOINE (Co-ordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service) said that ever since it was set up, in 1948, his organization had been endeavouring to promote the principle of international voluntary service, and it was keenly interested in the idea of creating a United Nations corps of volunteers for development. It had set out in an official document (E/C.2/711) its views on the subject of the relationship between voluntary service and the United Nations.

68. During the last twelve months a great deal had been said and written on the subject of involving youth in the task of development and of giving young people greater opportunities to participate in the programmes of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. His organization considered that youth ought to be enabled truly to participate in the proposed scheme, i.e. to participate not only at the implementation stage, but also at the stage of decision-making, programming and evaluation. Programmes of that type already existed at the national level.

69. What CCIVS wished to suggest to the Council was that it should consider the possibility of applying the principle of employing volunteers by means of a series of pilot projects, rather than decide to set up an international corps of volunteers for development. Its recommendations on the subject were as follows.

70. First, the specialized agencies interested in employing volunteers and volunteer and youth organizations should hold a meeting during the next three months. The meeting should discuss the various aspects of programming and of assigning international volunteers to United Nations programmes, a task which would require very close co-operation. Secondly, while Governments and the specialized agencies were engaged in that task, CCIVS should provide the United Nations with dossiers of suitable candidates, thereby giving certain volunteer organizations an opportunity to participate in the projects. The participation of volunteers ought always to be based on the principle of universality. In addition, domestic volunteers ought to play a major role in the pilot projects. The necessity for their doing so had been pointed out both by the participants at the World Food Congress and by those at the World Youth Assembly when considering the Secretary-General's proposal contained in document E/4790.

71. CCIVS believed that some of the costs of a project should be paid by the recipient country, but that if the recipient country did not have the necessary resources all the costs should be met out of the pilot project's funds. Some States Members of the United Nations were finding it difficult to provide additional funds for United Nations programmes. The CCIVS proposal had the merit of combining maximum efficiency with minimum expense. If it were adopted, the United Nations programme would not entail heavy administrative expenditure for the Organization. In its proposal CCIVS was envisaging a continuing evaluation of activities so as to provide for the United

Nations programme's future expansion and development. The programme would be an experimental one both at the administrative level and in the field.

72. An experimental programme of that kind would greatly benefit the receiving countries and the United Nations bodies, and it would be set afoot with the participation of existing organizations. An international

volunteer service ought to be one having its own original character at the national and the regional level, and not perpetuate the shortcomings of existing bilateral volunteer programmes. The CCIVS proposal would make it possible to establish a genuine international volunteer programme such as that recommended by the World Youth Assembly.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.