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FORTY-NINTH SESSION

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President: Mr. MARAMIS (Indonesia)

AGENDA ITEM 19

Tax treaties between developed and developing countries

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/4917)
(*concluded*)

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Council had decided at its previous meeting to postpone until the present meeting a decision regarding the question of the increase of the membership of the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on Tax Treaties between the Developed and the Developing Countries.
2. He suggested that the Council, bearing in mind the wish expressed by the Ceylonese delegation, should request the Secretary-General to consider a modest increase in the membership of the *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts and, if that proposal was found feasible, to take into account the interest evinced by the Government of Ceylon in becoming a member of the *Ad Hoc* Group.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 29

Calendar of conferences

REPORT OF THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE
(E/4924)

3. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to examine the report of the Co-ordination Committee on item 29 (E/4924), and drew attention to the question of the periodicity of meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/4900, paras. 21-24), an issue on which the Co-ordination Committee had not taken a decision.
4. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) said that her delegation considered that the Commission on the Status of Women should meet biennially; not only would that enable economies to be made, but it was further justified by the limited nature of the work of that Commission, which had not so wide a range as that of the Commission on Human Rights.
5. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) suggested that the Commission on the Status of Women should meet in 1971 and 1972, but biennially thereafter.
6. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) endorsed the French delegation's comments. He could not give his support to the Tunisian representative's suggestion, as the Council had already decided that the Commission on the Status of Women should meet biennially as from next year.
7. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) seconded the Tunisian representative's suggestion. He thought that the Council should reconsider its decision regarding the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission's programme was heavy, and at a time when the Second United Nations Development Decade was about to open, a number of important problems within the Commission's competence had not yet been settled. Success or failure of the Second Development Decade would depend on the ability of the Members of the United Nations to set up the social institutions necessary to give meaning to the expected changes. The Commission on the Status of Women had a very important part to play in that connexion. It should at least be given time to complete its outstanding work and to establish a new work programme in preparation for its biennial sessions.
8. The PRESIDENT requested the Secretary of the Council to outline the financial implications of the proposal that the Commission on the Status of Women should meet in 1971.

9. Mr. AHMED (Secretary of the Council) said that when the question had been raised at the twenty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Secretary-General had informed the Commission that estimates of expenditure for a session in 1971 would total \$58,000 if held at Geneva and \$23,000 if held at New York. Those estimates included direct expenditures of \$21,000 and \$23,000 respectively for travelling expenses of members. If the Commission's session was held at Geneva at a time carefully chosen in relation to other meetings, savings could be made on expenses for temporary staff.

10. As the Co-ordination Committee had recommended postponing until the Council's resumed forty-ninth session any decision on the date and place of the session of the Population Commission (E/4924, para. 4 (f)), a number of delegations had expressed the wish that that Commission should meet early in 1972 and not in the autumn of 1971. If the Council should decide that the Commission on the Status of Women would meet next year for two weeks, at the same time as the Population Commission, from 1 to 10 November at Geneva, there would be no financial implications, except travelling expenses.

11. Mr. NYNEQUE (Kenya) recalled that his delegation had requested at the twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly that the question of the periodicity of meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women should be reconsidered. It was therefore difficult for him not to support the proposal for an annual session of that Commission. However, in a spirit of compromise, his delegation would support the Tunisian representative's suggestion.

12. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the Tunisian representative's proposal that the Commission on the Status of Women should meet in 1971 and 1972 and biennially thereafter.

The proposal was rejected by 11 votes to 9, with 3 abstentions.

13. The PRESIDENT observed that, in the light of the decision just taken, the term of office of members of the Commission on the Status of Women should be increased to four years.

It was so decided.

14. The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of any objections, he would consider that the Council had adopted the recommendations regarding the calendar of conferences contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report of the Co-ordination Committee (E/4924), subject to any decision that the Council might take at its resumed forty-ninth session regarding the session of the Population Commission.

It was so decided.

15. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note with interest of the report of the Secretary-General on conferences and meetings held in the economic, social and human rights fields (E/4887).

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 28

Measures to improve the organization of the work of the Council

REPORT OF THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE (E/4923 and Add.1)

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider part I of the report of the Co-ordination Committee (E/4923) on item 28.

17. He put successively to the vote the recommendations contained in paragraph 6 (sub-paragraphs 1-8) of that report.

Sub-paragraph 1 was adopted by 21 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Sub-paragraph 2 was unanimously adopted.

Sub-paragraph 3 was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

Sub-paragraph 4 was adopted by 21 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.

Sub-paragraph 5 was adopted by 20 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.

Sub-paragraph 6 was adopted by 24 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Sub-paragraph 7 was adopted by 19 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

Sub-paragraph 8 was adopted by 24 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

18. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the whole of paragraph 6 of the report of the Co-ordination Committee.

Paragraph 6 as a whole was adopted by 26 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

19. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should adopt the recommendation in part II of the report of the Co-ordination Committee (E/4923/Add.1).

The recommendation was adopted.

Financial implications of actions taken by the Council at its forty-ninth session (E/4913)

20. Mr. KASSATKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that during consideration of agenda item 6 (a), at the 1709th meeting, his delegation had requested that the measures designed to strengthen the secretariat of ECAFE should not involve any increase in the regular budget of the United Nations or any recruiting of additional staff.

21. His delegation had also stressed, at the 398th meeting of the Co-ordination Committee, that the establishment of a questionnaire and the drafting of a preliminary report on regional structures should not have any financial implications; it therefore considered that the expenditure of \$10,000 for fees, travel and subsistence of a consultant under agenda item 7 (a) should not be included in the Secretary-General's report on financial implications (E/4913).

22. Referring to item 13 (The sea), his delegation had abstained when the vote was taken in the Co-ordination Committee on the first two preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution on marine co-operation, and it reserved its right to revert to the matter.

23. Regarding item 22 (Assistance in cases of natural disaster) the Secretary-General's report on financial implications differed from the resolution adopted by the Council at its previous meeting, which requested, not that another official should be recruited, but that the task in question should be assigned to an existing member of the secretariat.

24. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) noted that the report only mentioned extra expenditure necessitated by the Council's decisions and said that reference should also be made to the economies achieved as a result of those decisions.

25. Mr. VIAUD (France) observed that the financial implications mentioned in the report had no binding effect and that it was customary for delegations to reserve their position pending consideration of such questions by the General Assembly. It was to be hoped that the extra expenditure could be absorbed in the budget without any net increase in the total amount.

26. He supported the suggestion just made by the Tunisian representative. Moreover, the Council could express the wish that the budget should be re-cast so as to ensure a more efficient use of the Organization's resources.

27. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) endorsed the comments of the USSR representative on item 6 (a). He considered that the Council should give more attention to the important question of determining priorities in United Nations activities so as to manage the Organization's budget more efficiently. In that connexion, he drew the Council's attention to paragraphs 39-43 of the letter from the Chairman of the ACABQ to the President (E/L.1342).

28. Mr. KASSATKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the Tunisian representative's suggestion.

29. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) observed that no country was bound by the Council's decisions on financial implications. His delegation therefore reserved its position pending consideration of those questions by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. That body should, in particular, carefully study the financial implications of the Conference on the Human Environment, as he was not certain that the figure given in the report on that subject really resulted from a decision taken by the Council.

30. Mr. PAPOULIAS (Greece) endorsed the comments of the USSR, United States and United Kingdom representatives on financial implications. It was normal that decisions taken by the Council in the matter should be reviewed by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

31. He noted, moreover, that some financial implications of the resolutions adopted by the Council, such as the resolution relating to the preparatory study on regional structures, had not been mentioned in the report.

32. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report by the Secretary-General on the financial implications of actions taken by the Council at its forty-ninth session (E/4913).

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 3

• Second United Nations Development Decade (*concluded*)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/4916)

33. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 3 (E/4916), and in particular the draft resolution reproduced in paragraph 11 of that document.

34. Mr. PATRIOTA (Brazil) said that his delegation would have preferred to find the Council faced with a draft resolution which marked an improvement upon the Preparatory Committee's conclusions by eliminating certain differences of opinion regarding methods, targets, deadlines and the magnitude and scope of the Second Decade. His delegation was nevertheless pleased that the Economic Committee had been able to agree on a text which had been approved by almost all the developed countries represented on the Council and which showed a firm determination on the part of the developing countries to make their legitimate aspirations known to the international community. All the developing countries were determined to make a considerable effort to achieve continuous and sustained economic growth. They wished to alter the existing structures of the world economy so that their internal efforts were no longer hampered by international obstacles. Paragraph 5 of the draft resolution mentioned some of their legitimate aspirations, which he hoped would be taken into account by UNCTAD and subsequently by the General Assembly at a higher political level. His delegation approved the draft resolution but hoped that even more satisfactory provisions would be adopted at the coming sessions of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD and the General Assembly.

35. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stressed that the question of the Second Development Decade had aroused great interest at the present session of the Council. Council members had made efforts to find the most effective methods of achieving the targets set. It was natural that the problem of the Second Decade should have given rise to arguments and controversies, because it was closely linked to the study of the more general problems of world development or over-all development strategy. It was also natural that viewpoints should differ and conflict, since the world's economic and social systems were not all the same and countries therefore had different opinions on the direction in which the world should progress.

36. During the Economic Committee's consideration of the item, certain inappropriate remarks had been made which had hampered serious and thorough examination of

the problem. Now that the question was being discussed in plenary, each representative should put his personal feelings aside and endeavour to make an objective appraisal of the work accomplished. His own delegation wished to draw attention to the positive aspects of the discussion. It was noteworthy that full recognition had been given to the importance of progress in the developing countries as a means of ensuring economic and social stability, improving the political and economic situation, and maintaining peace and security in the world. The Council had given thorough consideration to that basic question and had reached unanimous agreement upon it.

37. Another positive element was the fact that the Governments of some developed countries had made known their intentions regarding aid to the developing countries and the Second Decade as a whole, stating that they were prepared not only to continue to provide assistance but to increase that assistance. Several delegations of developing countries had said that their Governments were ready to make every possible effort at the national level to achieve social, economic and cultural development. Those were necessary conditions of progress in those countries, however much external assistance was provided.

38. It was gratifying that the Economic Committee had succeeded in achieving unanimity on a number of aspects of the formidable problem of the Second Decade. The time spent by the Economic Committee in preparing the draft resolution had not been wasted, for a large part of that text reflected the shared opinion of all members of the Council. The President had not yet announced whether the draft resolution would be put to the vote or adopted without a vote. If there was a vote on each paragraph, his delegation would vote for paragraphs 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 10 and 11 of part A. It had no real objections to paragraph 3, but would have serious reservations on paragraph 6 and could not approve paragraph 5, which it regarded as unrealistic. It would also vote for part B.

39. The Economic Committee had been wise enough to exclude all insignificant details and to reject the points on which agreement had not been reached. Its work would therefore help the General Assembly in the difficult task of adopting a programme for the Second Decade. That was a valuable contribution, and the Council's review of the problem should make it easier for the General Assembly to take a final decision. In view of the magnitude of the General Assembly's task, his delegation had agreed that all the documents mentioned in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution should be transmitted to the Assembly. However, because his delegation did not approve all those documents, it had requested that they should be accompanied by a summary of the opinions of the different delegations.

40. Unfortunately the Economic Committee had not been able to arrive at complete agreement, although there had been a chance of doing so at one stage. His delegation had made every effort to make it possible for unanimity to be achieved. It greatly regretted having been reproached with not wishing to make the necessary concessions, thereby

preventing agreement from being reached. His delegation had made many concessions, and if some of the developing countries had been more realistic and had appreciated the difficulties facing the United Nations, a unanimous decision could have been obtained. Some delegations had been too demanding. They should show a greater understanding of problems which could never be solved unless approached with great objectivity. Every country in the world had to bear its own responsibilities in mind, and it was not his delegation's fault if the Economic Committee had not achieved maximum results. His delegation had several times indicated that whatever resolution was adopted the Soviet Government was prepared to continue to provide assistance to the developing countries and even to increase its aid in various fields.

41. Accordingly, the socialist countries members of the Council wished to make the following statement :

"The socialist countries members of the Economic and Social Council, expressing their readiness to make a tangible contribution to the achievement of the humanitarian purposes set in the Charter of the United Nations, and sharing the anxiety for the fate of the hundreds of millions of people throughout the world who are still living and working in the most difficult conditions, support the idea of working out, through the United Nations, a broad programme of measures aimed at eradicating this manifestation of social and economic injustice in the modern world.

"In particular, they look with profound understanding upon the difficulties encountered by the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America in building up their economy and achieving social progress.

"With this in mind, they consider that any measures adopted by the United Nations in connexion with the Second Development Decade should be based on principles genuinely calculated to speed up social and economic development.

"The position of the socialist countries members of the Economic and Social Council with regard to the Second Development Decade has been stated repeatedly in the organs of the United Nations. In particular, it is defined in the following documents: A/7491¹ of 24 February 1969, E/AC.54/L.32/Add.12 of 8 May 1969, E/4719 of 30 June 1969, A/C.2/248 of 20 November 1969 and E/AC.6/L.414 of 17 July 1970.

"The socialist countries members of the Economic and Social Council bear no responsibility whatever for document A/7982 of 3 June 1970, since it was drawn up by an organ in which, for known and fully justified reasons, they did not participate, and whose work took shape without due regard for their position on the Second Development Decade.

"No objective assessment of the previous Development Decade is made in that document, and the reasons for its failure are not revealed. However, such an assessment is essential to ensure that the shortcomings and mistakes of

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, agenda item 37.

the first Decade should not be repeated in the future. The document makes no mention of the need to put international relations on a normal footing; to halt acts of aggression; to take effective measures towards universal and complete disarmament; to establish a stable and lasting peace on earth; to achieve the aims set in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which include a decisive struggle against the policy of neo-colonialism; or to put into practice the progressive principles of international economic relations approved at its first session by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - a step which is a vital prerequisite of economic and social progress and the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Second Development Decade.

"The document directs the developing countries to open their doors still wider to the penetration of their economy by foreign private capital and ignores the serious adverse consequences attendant upon its activity in those countries.

"The socialist countries members of the Economic and Social Council do not consider themselves bound by any of the quantitative figures laid down in that document or, in particular, by an obligation to provide annually to developing countries financial resource transfers amounting to 1 per cent of their gross national product.

"Such obligations have nothing to do with the socialist countries, since the entire responsibility for the economic backwardness of the developing countries rests with the former colonial Powers and the developed capitalist States, which have pursued and continue to pursue a neo-colonialist policy towards these developing countries.

"At the same time, the socialist countries members of the Economic and Social Council declare that they will continue to expand their mutually beneficial commercial, economic, scientific and technical co-operation with the developing countries on the basis of practical and economically sound proposals for the development of such co-operation, having regard both to their own potential and to that of the developing countries. They will, as hitherto, keep to those forms and methods of co-operation with those countries which fully correspond to their social and economic plans and programmes and which guarantee the observance of their national sovereignty and their unconditional right to dispose fully of their own natural resources.

"In rendering aid, including political and military aid, to the developing countries, the socialist countries are guided by comprehension of their international duty to the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America who are struggling for their national, political and economic independence.

"While firmly convinced that the elimination of the backwardness of a large number of countries all over the world, a backwardness caused by colonialism and neo-colonialism, is one of the greatest problems of the present day, the socialist countries are also guided by the belief that the United Nations cannot turn its back on the social and economic problems confronting the workers in the

developed capitalist countries: intensified exploitation, the growth of unemployment, the violation of elementary human rights and freedoms, the ever-increasing concentration of wealth in the hands of a small number of people, and increasing indigence and lack of prospects among the broad masses of the poor.

"Moreover, no long-term international programme can disregard the existence of such problems as the emergence in the world of a threat to human life from excessive pollution of the human environment, the shortage of fresh water for public supply, and the aggravation of the housing problem. The solution of all these problems cannot be postponed indefinitely, for they affect the course of social and economic development throughout the world, including the developing countries. The 1970s should thus be years of achievement of substantial economic and social progress in all countries throughout the world."

42. He hoped that no country would have any further doubts as to the position adopted by the socialist countries members of the Council with regard to assistance towards economic and social progress in the developing countries.

43. He requested that his statement should appear in the Council's report.

44. The PRESIDENT said the Soviet Union representative's request would be taken into account.

45. Mr. GUELEV (Bulgaria) said his delegation associated itself fully with the standpoint expressed by the USSR representative with regard to the problems of the Second Development Decade. It also agreed with the latter's comments on the draft resolution before the Council. His own delegation had already outlined its position before the Economic Committee. It regretted that the Committee had been unable to reach agreement on the draft as a whole, and confirmed that it was prepared to participate in the preparation of the programme for the Second Decade.

46. Mr. MOJSOV (Yugoslavia) welcomed the fact that the efforts to reach agreement had not been in vain and that there had not been a single vote against the draft resolution in the Economic Committee. The developing countries had shown that they were ready to make concessions in order to secure an agreement on the most important points. The Yugoslav delegation had done its best to make unanimity possible. Unfortunately, the text had not been supported by all delegations.

47. It was not the purpose of the draft resolution to comment on the past, but to prepare for the future. It was true that agreement had not been reached on certain questions of primary importance, but account had been taken of the main concerns expressed during the present session. The resolution would therefore constitute a good starting point for constructive efforts. The points listed in operative paragraph 5 were those to which the developing countries thought a solution must be found if the targets of the Second Decade were to be achieved. The developing countries would have preferred the draft resolution to refer to General Assembly resolution 2411 (XXIII) and to the work of the Preparatory Committee.

48. In the view of the Yugoslav delegation, the draft resolution represented an honest effort on the part of the developing countries to obtain unanimous agreement within the Council. It was convinced that the text would make it possible to reach, at the international level, an agreement on the development strategy in which all countries would participate.

49. Mr. DUBEY (India) said that his delegation attached great importance to the Second Development Decade. The Indian Minister for Foreign Affairs had suggested in plenary (1700th meeting) that a working group should be set up to continue negotiations with a view to reaching an agreement. Despite the efforts of the working group, the results were not really satisfactory, and the Indian delegation wished to express its disappointment. His Government would do everything in its power to ensure that a wider measure of agreement was reached during the consideration of the question by the General Assembly. It was indispensable to the success of the Decade to find a solution to the issues listed in paragraph 5 of part A of the draft resolution. India's attitude would depend on the way those issues were solved.

50. Mr. PANGGABEAN (Indonesia) said that, as a sponsor of the draft resolution, he would support the draft if it was put to the vote. He regretted, however, that it had not received unanimous support.

51. At the 1699th meeting, the Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs had voiced an appeal to the effect that the Council should endeavour to obtain the agreement of all States Members of the United Nations in elaborating an international development strategy and ensuring the success of the Second Decade. The fact that part of the international community was not participating in that enterprise might result in the failure of efforts for development. It was regrettable that, after such arduous negotiations, it had not proved possible to persuade the socialist countries to share the burden of responsibility for the international strategy. It was also regrettable that the Council could not present to the General Assembly a document approved by all Council members. Yet the developing countries had refrained from demanding precise commitments: they had confined themselves to mentioning the issues which called for special attention.

52. Nevertheless, the resolution could serve as a basis for further negotiations. All hope, therefore, should not be abandoned, and the statement by the representative of the Soviet Union gave certain grounds for optimism.

53. Mr. GUILLEN (Peru) said that his delegation would support the draft resolution if it was put to the vote. In the Peruvian Government's view, the whole success of the Decade depended on the compromise which would be reached concerning the efforts of the developing countries on the one hand and those of the developed countries on the other. Without united efforts the development strategy would be pointless. What was required was not a generous gesture on the part of a few countries, but the implementation of Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter, which had been accepted by all the members of the Council.

54. Mr. HUDA (Pakistan) welcomed the fact that the difficult negotiations which had taken place had resulted in the approval of a draft resolution. Although it had not been adopted unanimously, the text would help the developing countries during the Second Decade. It was regrettable, however, that a question of such importance should have been discussed, not by the Council itself, but by the Economic Committee.

55. The developing countries had accepted certain targets, but they seemed to be the ones who were making all the sacrifices involved. They did not, of course, refuse to make sacrifices, but they hoped to obtain certain undertakings from the developed countries which would assist them in their task. It was to be hoped that, at the next session of the General Assembly, decisions would be taken designed to give the developing countries the aid they needed to achieve the objectives of the Second Development Decade.

56. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that while the results obtained by the Economic Committee in its consideration of agenda item 3 did not reach the level that had been expected, they gave no grounds for pessimism. It was now necessary to ensure that the General Assembly, at the moment of celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary, should be able to launch a development programme with the participation of all countries. France thought that that was possible, and would do all in its power during the coming months to contribute to that result.

57. Certain issues were still manifestly subject to controversy; they were listed in operative paragraph 5 of part A of the draft resolution. They were not all of equal importance; the volume of resources to be transferred (the 1 per cent target) was often given pride of place, but certain secondary targets also gave rise to difficulties; there was reason to hope that those difficulties would be overcome before the session of the General Assembly.

58. The immediate need was for the Council, in view of its responsibilities under the Charter, to take a meaningful decision in order to lay the foundations for future discussions; it was therefore a good omen that it had been able to reach agreement, even on an imperfect text. France was particularly interested in part B of the draft resolution, dealing with the Council's role in evaluating the results of the Second Decade. The agreement reached on that point was accordingly reassuring to him. It was still more valuable than the decisions concerning the fixing of targets and methods for the Second Decade. The Council's role in evaluation would provide a subject for discussion between Governments and enable arrangements to be made assuring the participation of all. He noted with satisfaction that the USSR, despite its criticisms, had not refused to participate in the work of evaluation.

59. It was understandable that the preparatory work so far achieved for the Second Decade should have been criticized, since the socialist countries had not participated in it. The time had come, however, to turn towards the future, and he judged that the draft resolution and the comments made upon it justified some degree of optimism. He trusted that the draft resolution would be adopted by acclamation,

on the understanding that note would be taken of the position of the various delegations; if the Council acted in that way, it would finish its work on a hopeful note.

60. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) agreed with the French representative that the draft resolution should be adopted by acclamation, although the Economic Committee had not been able to approve it unanimously.

61. The Ghanaian delegation was not entirely satisfied with the text, and had explained its reasons in the Economic Committee. In its view, the Council should have adopted a better method of work on agenda item 3, in order that the General Assembly could take a decision more quickly. Many difficulties had not been overcome, as appeared from operative paragraph 5 of part A; they had, however, previously been considered in depth by the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board.

62. Despite those setbacks, it would be wrong to give way to discouragement; the preparation of the Second Decade was a difficult exercise in which it was impossible to achieve total agreement. The immediate need was for the draft resolution to be adopted by the Council as a whole; the General Assembly would then, at its twenty-fifth session, take account of the reservations expressed by the socialist countries and elaborate a text which could be accepted by all nations.

63. Mr. QUARONI (Italy) said that the participation of all countries was indispensable to the success of the Second Decade. It was in that spirit that Italy had participated in the consultations which had taken the place during the session. Like France, therefore, it hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

64. The Italian delegation had, however, a reservation to make regarding operative paragraph 11 of part A: it considered that the question of the level of government representation during the final preparation of the draft strategy should be left to the discretion of the Governments themselves.

65. As regards the role of evaluation assigned to the Council in part B, his delegation while considering it satisfactory, would have wished to see it specified in greater detail.

66. The Italian Government was at present studying the possibilities open to it for assisting the developing countries within the framework of its national plans. The Italian delegation's participation in future work in preparation for a development strategy would be based on the decisions taken in that sphere.

67. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), replying to a comment by the Indonesian representative, said that it was untrue to say that the socialist countries were unwilling to share the burdens of the developing countries. He pointed out that the USSR had granted substantial aid to Indonesia.

68. If the USSR made reservations concerning the draft resolution submitted by the Economic Committee, it was because, in its view, the issues mentioned in operative

paragraph 5 of part A did not represent the conditions for the success of the Second Decade. The Soviet delegation had indicated those conditions on a number of occasions and again at the present meeting; it regretted that the sponsors of the draft resolution had not recognized them. The USSR, in view of its experience over the past fifty years, was after all in a good position to know the conditions for economic and social progress.

69. Replying to the French representative, he said that the Soviet delegation unreservedly supported part B of the draft resolution, which dealt with the Council's role in evaluation. The French representative had also regretted that the socialist countries had not taken part in the work of the Preparatory Committee. The USSR had itself predicted the consequences of that situation; the lesson should not now be forgotten, but taken to heart.

70. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that no real international co-operation was possible unless the socialist countries participated in the Second Decade – not to mention the countries which were not Members of the United Nations. Despite the difficulties encountered in that respect, he thanked the representatives of the USSR and Bulgaria who, in their statements, had promised that their countries would increase their assistance to the developing countries.

71. He agreed with the representatives of India and Pakistan that the issues mentioned in the draft resolution as those on which agreement could not be reached were in fact the essential questions. He hoped that the draft, of which Sudan was a co-sponsor, would be widely supported.

72. Mr. NOLAN (Ireland) said that the draft resolution submitted by the Economic Committee constituted the best compromise which could be reached at the present stage. The Irish delegation had a number of reservations to make on the text, having regard to the position it had already adopted in the Preparatory Committee and which was indicated in that Committee's report.

73. Mr. PANGGABEAN (Indonesia) regretted that the representative of the USSR had misunderstood his statement; he had simply deplored that it had not been possible to persuade the socialist countries to share the responsibilities entailed by the draft strategy.

74. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) said that agenda item 3 should have been discussed in plenary rather than in the Economic Committee. He also regretted that the Council had not heard during the first days of the session the statement just made by the USSR representative. The Soviet Union and the socialist countries had, however, made a real effort towards a compromise during the consultations and he had hoped, at one time, that a consensus would be achieved. Tunisia had not hesitated to make concessions to that end.

75. The discussion on the Second Decade would now be continued in the General Assembly. Before the Council concluded its work on the question, however, he thought that the sponsors of the draft resolution should come together once again to amend it if it appeared that it could not be adopted by acclamation.

76. Mr. BRECKENRIDGE (Ceylon) said that paragraph 5 of part A of the draft resolution reflected the inadequacies of the attempted compromise and the need for greater co-operation. Paragraph 5 did not represent to his delegation a plan for economic development – it catalogued certain outstanding items that needed resolution at the international level. His country accepted that, and stood by the need for such resolution.

77. His delegation welcomed the statement made by the representative of the Soviet Union on behalf of the socialist countries members of the Council. His country was aware of the role played by socialist countries in the economic development of developing countries, and recognized the key role they should play in the development strategy. Furthermore, his country shared many of the concerns expressed by the Soviet Union representative in his statement.

78. The PRESIDENT suggested that the draft resolution in paragraph 11 of the report of the Economic Committee (E/4916) should be adopted without a vote, subject to the reservations and observations made on it.

The draft resolution was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 31

Arrangements regarding the report of the Council to the General Assembly

79. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council, adhering to its normal practice, should authorize its President to prepare its report to the General Assembly in consultation with the Vice-Presidents and the secretariat.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 18

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/4869)

80. The PRESIDENT, recalling the decision taken by the Council at its resumed forty-seventh session,² and noting that no request had been submitted for a discussion of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, declared that the Council would transmit the report to the General Assembly and that a mention to that effect would appear in the Council's report to the General Assembly.

It was so decided.

Adjournment of the session

81. The PRESIDENT thanked the representatives of Member States, the specialized agencies, the non-governmental

organizations, and members of the various secretariats of Geneva, New York and the regional economic commissions, for their contributions to the work of the forty-ninth session of the Council – a particularly important session, as it came at the time of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations and on the eve of the launching of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

82. Grave international difficulties subsisted. The world remained divided, and it was to be regretted that the United Nations had not become universal in accordance with the wish expressed by the Secretary-General. Many figures quoted during the discussions revealed the widening gap between developed and developing countries. Those figures hid a hard reality for 2,000 million human beings.

83. In such a situation the Council had made an honest effort to consider the dangers and challenges of the present and the future, as the Secretary-General had asked it to do at the opening meeting. It had perhaps not given evidence of all the energy for which the circumstances called. It had postponed the examination of important items such as the application of computer technology for development, tourism and the outflow of trained personnel. That fact suggested the desirability of amending the working methods applied to major topics. The Council had, however, been able to examine the world economic situation in detail, helped in that task by the participation of some high-ranking officials. The social situation and the situation in respect of human rights had been considered in detail during the forty-eighth session, when the Council had taken appropriate action.

84. In the field of international co-operation, the Council had had before it new and imaginative projects such as the multinational interdisciplinary development advisory teams and the creation of the international group of volunteers for development. The resolution recommending that the General Assembly establish that group as from 1 January 1971 was one of the positive actions of the session. The Council had been able to lay down guidelines that would be of considerable use to the General Assembly in drafting the final terms of reference of the United Nations Volunteers.

85. The decisions taken on drugs and natural disasters were also timely and positive. In the field of science and technology the Council had welcomed the work of the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, and had invited all the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to make use of the Committee's advice. It had also examined certain specific problems: it had noted the Secretary-General's progress report on the protein problem and that of the same Advisory Committee on science education, and recommended Governments and appropriate bodies, especially UNESCO, to make use of the second of those documents in taking the appropriate action.

86. The Council had given only preliminary consideration to the Secretary-General's report on the application of computer technology for development; it would discuss the item thoroughly at its fiftieth session.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 1A*, p. 3.

87. Human environment was currently one of the most important fields of United Nations activity. The Council had, in that connexion, noted the progress being made in the preparations for the United Nations Conference to be held at Stockholm and voiced the hope that that Conference would be action-oriented and would contribute to achieving the aims of the Second Development Decade.

88. The Council had decided to prepare a study on the traditional and new uses of the sea. In view of the recent developments in the use of the sea, it was necessary that the international community establish a régime beneficial to all mankind. The Council would be able to play an important role in developing new forms of international co-operation in that domain.

89. The Council had wisely decided to postpone to its fifty-first session the examination of future institutional arrangements for science and technology, in order to allow further clarification of the issues involved.

90. The Second United Nations Development Decade was without any doubt the most important item on the agenda. Its preparation had given rise to difficulties, which had been reflected during the discussions, but there was nevertheless no cause for pessimism. He now called on all Governments to study those difficulties closely, in order to reach full agreement at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly. The Second Decade would give the Council an opportunity of strengthening its activities and its role by assisting the General Assembly in the over-all appraisal of the progress made in the application of the international development strategy. The creation of a standing Committee on Natural Resources would facilitate its task in that respect.

91. All delegations agreed unanimously in wishing for a revitalized Council. Over the past twenty-five years the Council had, in fact, been deflected from the course set for it in the Charter. It had become too preoccupied by what had been termed mechanical co-ordination. It had now to become an effective instrument in the formulation of economic and social policies: in that way it would recover from its present malaise. Such a change would, however, be impossible without the resolute support of Governments, which would therefore have to re-examine the basic principles of international co-operation in order to acquire a new awareness of their responsibilities towards the international community.

92. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) paid a tribute to his colleague in the United States delegation, Mr. Kotschnig, who was about to retire after twenty-five years of service with the United Nations. The countries of western Europe and some other Governments had asked Mr. Kotschnig to be so kind as to speak on their behalf at the adjournment of the session.

93. Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America) thanked his fellow members of the Council who had nominated him as their spokesman. On their behalf he congratulated the President, who had guided the work of the Council with perspicacity and without ever losing sight of essentials.

Thanks to him, the solutions reached were not simply compromises but would serve as bases for broadening the results already obtained.

94. He also wished to thank the officers of the Council and the Secretariat staff who, at all levels, had contributed to the smooth running of the session.

95. Some speakers had seemed to imply that the Council's discussions would not end on an exactly successful note. On the strength of his experience of forty-five sessions, he was inclined to think the contrary. It was quite true that the questions of UNDP and of the Second Development Decade had not been settled, but they were so complex that no one could expect them to be disposed of at the current session and the discussions had resulted in some extremely useful contributions to the preparation of the Second Decade.

96. Referring to co-ordination activities, he said that they should not be confined solely to eliminating overlapping and duplication but should aim at strengthening the existing structures. In that respect it was a welcome development that the members of the Council were increasingly nominating, to sit on the Co-ordination Committee, persons who had a thorough knowledge of the matters dealt with by the Council.

97. Lastly, although it was Governments which participated in the work of the United Nations, it should not be forgotten that basically the Organization emanated from the peoples of the world, whose needs, aspirations and aims were identical. That was becoming daily and increasingly apparent to the Council and the United Nations. For that reason he was convinced that, despite the differences which still had to be overcome, the world would make considerable progress during the next century.

98. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking also in the name of the Bulgarian delegation, congratulated the President on the way in which he had conducted the work of a difficult session, the results of which were nevertheless useful, even though the Council had not been able to solve more than a few of the problems with which it had had to deal.

99. He then paid a tribute to Mr. Kotschnig on the occasion of his departure. Undoubtedly Mr. Kotschnig had as often as not defended attitudes opposed to those of the Soviet delegation; but the latter respected its political adversaries. Mr. Kotschnig had held his post for many years and he had defended his ideas up to the end of the session which was drawing to a close. He wished him many years of peaceful repose and assured him that the generation which was to take over from him in the Council would fight to create economic and social conditions which would allow him to pass an agreeable retirement.

100. Mr. DUBEY (India), speaking on behalf of the Asian members of the Council, congratulated the President on the way in which he had conducted the work of the Council during a session which had been of a truly decisive nature by virtue of the aggravation of the crisis in the field of international economic co-operation and the launching of

the Second Development Decade. It was quite true that the Council had not succeeded in all fields, but it had met with success on many points.

101. He then paid a tribute to Mr. Kotschnig, of the United States delegation, who was to retire after many years of service and who had remained faithful to his ideal to the very end. His contribution to the cause of international economic co-operation would not be forgotten and he wished him a happy retirement.

102. Mr. ILBOUDO (Upper Volta), speaking in the name of the African members of the Council, congratulated the President and the officers of the Council on the way in which they had conducted the work of the session. He particularly welcomed the decision taken by the Council to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session the draft of an international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

103. He then thanked the members of the conference services who had, each in his particular field, contributed to the success of the session.

104. Finally, he wished to express his gratitude to the Swiss Government and offer his best wishes to the Swiss people on the occasion of their national festivity.

105. Mrs. ZAEFFERER de GOYENECHE (Argentina), speaking in the name of the Latin American countries, joined with other speakers in congratulating the President on the way in which he had conducted the discussions. The

spirit of collaboration that he had aroused had made it possible to reach compromise solutions on extremely controversial questions.

106. Her delegation hoped that the resolutions and decisions of the Council would be approved by the General Assembly and that they would be rapidly implemented in order to produce concrete results.

107. Finally, she expressed her best wishes to Mr. Kotschnig on the occasion of his retirement.

108. Mr. de SEYNES (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs), also speaking on behalf of all his colleagues in the Secretariat, wished to express his profound gratitude to Mr. Kotschnig, who had made a valuable contribution to the activities of the Council for many years. Dealings with him had always been friendly and constructive. The Council had just passed through some difficult years and many people even thought at times that it would, in fact, if not in law or constitutional law, have to hand over to other bodies. Mr. Kotschnig had helped to keep the flame alive and to indicate new paths for the Council. His departure coincided with a rebirth of hope. He could retire thinking with satisfaction of the work he had done.

109. The PRESIDENT thanked the members of the Council on his own behalf and that of the officers of the Council and declared the forty-ninth session of the Council adjourned.

The meeting rose at 2.20 p.m.