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*President:* Mr. MARAMIS (Indonesia)

## AGENDA ITEM 6

Regional co-operation (*continued*)

- (a) Reports of the regional economic commissions and of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut (E/4733 and Add.1, E/4781 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, E/4806, E/4806/Summary, E/4822, E/4822/Summary, E/4823 and Add.1, E/4823/Summary, E/4824, E/4824/Summary, E/4825, E/L.1335 and Corr.1, E/L.1336-1338)
- (b) Report on the meetings of the executive secretaries (E/4859)

1. Mr. HUQ (Pakistan) said that the reports before the Council showed that the regional economic commissions had made impressive progress during the past year. The economic situation in the developing regions was far from encouraging, however. The terms of trade of the ECAFE region, for example, had declined by over 8 per cent during the 1960s, and although the developing countries in the region had made serious efforts to achieve the goals of the First United Nations Development Decade, the policies and practices of certain developed countries had not gone far enough to lighten their burden. Foreign aid flows in real *per capita* terms had declined and, especially towards the end of the previous decade, the burden of debt servicing and repayment had become more acute.

2. He described Pakistan's economic development, and noted that, during the past decade its GNP had increased by an average of 5.7 per cent and that the "green revolution" in agriculture had considerably helped to increase food production over the past few years. However, Pakistan's debt servicing burden had increased further, mainly as a result of a deterioration in the terms and conditions of most foreign loans, so that in 1969/70 about 19.2 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings would be absorbed by interest on and repayment of loans, as compared with 3.6 per cent in 1960/61.

3. The report of ECAFE (E/4823) made it clear that trade, foreign aid and development efforts were closely interrelated, and that co-operation between developed and developing countries in the preparation of integrated policies in those fields would speed up the growth rate of the developing countries. His delegation was glad to note that ECAFE had decided to streamline its work and had supported its decision to continue to hold annual sessions, which offered representatives a regular opportunity of exchanging ideas and experience. His delegation was also of the view that ECAFE should continue to hold its sessions in different countries and that, in the case of host countries with limited facilities, invitations should be restricted to members and associate members.

4. ECAFE had adopted a realistic approach in its modified proposal on trade liberalization and monetary co-operation on a sub-regional basis. Pakistan firmly believed that common political and economic objectives were important prerequisites for any such arrangements and that there was a better chance of achieving those objectives through a sub-regional approach and on a project-by-project and commodity-by-commodity basis.

5. His delegation welcomed ECAFE's activities in the field of transport, and particularly the Trans-Asian Railway network project, in which his country would co-operate fully. It had been proposed that the Pakistan Regional Railway Centre should be upgraded and given inter-regional status, and his delegation hoped that the assistance required in that connexion would be made available. His delegation was also impressed by the progress being made with the Asian Highway and the Asian Telecommunication Network.

6. Mrs. MIRONOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation fully supported the efforts being made by the regional economic commissions to develop and strengthen regional co-operation in economic, trade and scientific and technical matters. That was the sole alternative to military conflict and a continuation of the armaments race. Her Government had consistently advocated peaceful multilateral co-operation between all States and the creation of systems of collective security in Europe and Asia.

7. The regional economic commissions were called upon to play an important role in the planning of development, but it should be borne in mind that any international or regional measures in the field of planning should be based on national plans and programmes. Regional and sub-regional projects could be drawn up at the regional level, but must reflect the needs and interests of the countries concerned. The regional economic commissions should concentrate on solving the major social and economic

problems of their regions. They should seek in the first place to strengthen national economies by combating neo-colonialism. They should pay greater attention to the experience acquired by developing countries in strengthening their economies, in nationalizing private enterprises and banks, in limiting the power of foreign monopolies and in liquidating obsolete economic systems. To that end, they should, through their long-term programmes of work, promote the introduction of economic planning, strengthen the public sector and encourage democratic agrarian reforms.

8. ECAFE was playing an increasingly important role in the economic and social development of its member countries. Her delegation firmly believed that the sub-regional groupings which had recently been established in the ECAFE region with a view to promoting social and economic co-operation between various groups of countries should function in accordance with the United Nations Charter, and therefore co-ordinate their work with that of ECAFE.

9. The Soviet Union attached considerable importance to the work of ECE, and welcomed the recent reorganization of its subsidiary bodies and their methods of work, which would result in greater efficiency. The consideration by ECE, at its twenty-fifth session, of the Executive Secretary's analytical report on the state of intra-European trade (E/ECE/761) had strengthened her delegation's conviction that the elimination of discriminatory quantitative restrictions on imports from the socialist countries was a prerequisite for the expansion of East-West trade. Much still remained to be done in that field.

10. ECE would receive valuable guidance and assistance in its work from the Declaration adopted at the Commemorative Meeting to celebrate its twentieth anniversary<sup>1</sup>, from General Assembly resolution 2317 (XXII) and from the relevant resolutions it had adopted at its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions. Its activities would also be facilitated by the convening of an all-European conference on security and co-operation in Europe, proposed four years previously by the States members of the Warsaw Pact. She described the various additions made to the initial agenda for that conference, and emphasized that it dealt specifically with problems of European regional co-operation.

11. Her delegation firmly believed that no real progress could be made by ECE in its work without the participation, on a basis of complete equality, of the German Democratic Republic. That country's immense economic, scientific and technical potential and wide experience could be extremely valuable to ECE in the fields of scientific and technical co-operation, long-term planning and industrial and agricultural development. In particular, it was impossible to implement various inland waterway projects drawn up by ECE without the participation of the German Democratic Republic, whose interests were directly affected. The absence of the German Democratic Republic similarly limited the scope of any pollution control

measures in respect of the Baltic Sea, and prevented the full implementation of the various agreements and conventions drawn up by ECE, particularly those relating to inland transport.

12. The unrealistic approach adopted by the Western Powers to the existence of the German Democratic Republic was harmful to international economic co-operation and the fact that even the Federal Republic of Germany was on the verge of recognizing the German Democratic Republic revealed that their position was untenable. A proposal for the participation of the German Democratic Republic in the twenty-fifth session of ECE had been rejected owing to the opposition of certain Western countries, which had based their arguments on the now obsolete paragraph 10 of ECE's terms of reference and had even suggested that the participation of the German Democratic Republic in the work of ECE was subject to the agreement of the Federal Republic of Germany.

13. She drew attention to General Assembly resolutions 2129 (XX) and 2317 (XXII), and read out operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of the former, which had been adopted unanimously. She further pointed out that paragraph 1 of the Commission's terms of reference stated that the Commission should "initiate and participate in measures . . . for maintaining . . . the economic relations of the European countries". Furthermore, the preamble to the Declaration adopted at the Commission's twenty-second session stated that representatives of participating Governments "are fully determined to continue to utilize the Commission for the development and strengthening of co-operation in the interests of safeguarding peaceful and friendly relations and security".

14. In conclusion, she introduced a draft resolution on the admission of the German Democratic Republic to membership of the Economic Commission for Europe, submitted by Bulgaria, People's Republic of the Congo, Sudan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/L.1336).

15. Mr. AHMED (Secretary of the Council) referring to the draft resolution contained in paragraph 94 of the report of the Governing Council of UNDP on its tenth session (E/4884), drew attention to the statement made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations during the joint meeting of the CPC and the ACC, to the effect that subject to such action as the Economic and Social Council might take on the resolution in question, he was ready to arrange for a thorough study of all aspects of the problem to be carried out by an experienced consultant, in close consultation with the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions and of the specialized agencies concerned, and to report progress to the Council the following year (see E/4886, para. 20).

16. Mr. VRATUŠA (Yugoslavia) said his delegation keenly appreciated the work being done by the regional economic commissions, whose role was increasing in importance as a result of the decentralization of United Nations activities. It considered that the commissions should act as the regional arms of organizations functioning at the world level, and

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 3, para. 260.*

should promote both sectoral activities and activities common to all sectors, such as the practical application of the results of scientific research, of technological progress and of studies of the environment. It was therefore logical that the regional economic commissions should assume primary responsibility for the review and appraisal of the implementation of international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade at the regional level.

17. In view of the fact that Europe was still deeply divided, both politically and militarily, ECE had an important part to play in promoting friendly co-operation between all European States, regardless of differences in their social systems, and regardless of whether they belonged to military or other groupings. It was already making good progress in that direction and, in accordance with the Declaration adopted at the Commemorative Meeting, had tackled the problem of achieving the broadest possible measure of intra-European co-operation.

18. Much still remained to be done in the field of East-West trade, which amounted to only 6 per cent of European trade as a whole, although recently an annual average growth rate of 12 per cent had been recorded. Considerable efforts were therefore required on both sides, and special attention should be paid to the removal of trade obstacles imposed by the West.

19. ECE was also endeavouring to promote industrial co-operation and, in view of the encouraging progress already made in that field, the time seemed to have come to take certain practical measures. For that reason his delegation had proposed that consideration should be given to the possibility of establishing a centre for industrial co-operation within the Secretariat, responsible for operational activities in that field. His delegation also supported ECE's decision to convene a second Meeting of Governmental Experts on Scientific and Technological Co-operation. Such activities were also of the utmost importance to countries outside the region, because about 90 per cent of all technological innovations originated in countries members of ECE. It should also be borne in mind that the transfer of scientific and technological knowledge, in addition to a continuing flow of financial resources, was basic to the development strategy.

20. He emphasized the importance of tackling environmental problems which would, unless they were solved, delay and jeopardize technological progress.

21. Unfortunately, ECE was still hampered in its work by its anachronistic terms of reference, which referred to "the economic reconstruction" of Europe, to "occupied territories" and to the "Free Territory of Trieste". Yet it was more than twenty years ago since the "occupied territories" of Germany had been replaced by two sovereign German States and, instead of the former dispute over the "Free Territory of Trieste", there was now extremely fruitful co-operation along the border between Italy and Yugoslavia. ECE's present terms of reference were clearly an obstacle to its universality and efficiency, and should be amended accordingly.

22. With regard to draft resolution E/L.1336, his delegation wholeheartedly agreed that discrimination against the German Democratic Republic should cease. There was absolutely no justification for the fact that only one of the two sovereign German States should enjoy the privilege of membership in ECE while the other continued to be excluded from membership. The Economic and Social Council, as the body competent with respect to the regional economic commissions, should take a clear-cut decision on the admission of the German Democratic Republic, as it had done at its resumed twentieth session in respect of the Federal Republic of Germany. His delegation would therefore vote for the draft resolution.

23. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that the reports of the regional economic commissions had been submitted too late to give time for thorough study and that he hoped they would be made available at an earlier stage at future sessions. He welcomed the comments of the executive secretaries on the reports of their commissions. The remarks of the Executive Secretary of ECE on the contribution that Commission could make to the Second United Nations Development Decade were particularly cogent.

24. He regretted, however, that no mention had been made of measures to assist the less developed countries of the region in accordance with ECE resolution 8 (XXII). The needs of those countries should be taken into account in the region's programme of activities. An improved standard of living and technological progress in those countries would not only promote prosperity within the region but would assist the over-all development of the third world.

25. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) said that his delegation would have to oppose draft resolution E/L.1336, because it dealt with one of the difficult political issues to which the Executive Secretary of ECE had drawn attention. He would reserve his delegation's comments on that draft resolution until it came up for specific action.

26. The reports of the regional economic commissions had not been received early enough to allow time for thorough study. The Executive Secretary of ECE had rightly drawn attention to the role of science and technology in the modern world and to the part played by expertise from non-governmental sources in the process of accelerating economic growth. Governments were now recognizing the contribution of such sources and using it as an important complementary tool in planning and accelerating industrial development. The participation of non-governmental organizations made it possible to cut across sectoral and institutional forms of organization.

27. His delegation welcomed the growing attention paid by ECE to priorities – an example that other regional economic commissions would do well to follow. If it were possible to place certain converging priorities from all the regions before the Council as a major subject for consideration the possibility of paying comprehensive and global attention to problems would be greatly enhanced.

28. His Government had been glad to participate in the session of ECAFE and had welcomed the decision to make Bangkok its permanent headquarters. ECAFE's resolution 106 (XXVI) on performance evaluation during the Second United Nations Development Decade might well be used as a model by other regional economic commissions. His delegation had also welcomed the comments on family planning and population problems, the essential role of youth in development planning and the interconnexion of social and economic objectives. It had taken note of the desire of countries of the region to secure national and sub-regional development within the larger framework of regional development. In a region extending west to Pakistan, east to Japan and south to Australia, very diverse in economies and cultures, the concept of sub-regional groupings designed to strengthen economic development was unlikely to damage regional co-operation in the more comprehensive sense. At a time when political relations had been strained or non-existent, the Committee for the Co-ordination of Investigations of the Lower Mekong Basin had made it possible for the riparian States of the area to work steadily and consistently in developing the kind of structure essential to ensure economic growth.

29. His delegation had particularly welcomed the decision taken by the Committee of the Whole of ECLA at its fifth extraordinary session to extend the mandate of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning. The regional effort to identify the critical problems of development and mobilize research resources was one of the best means of accelerating economic growth.

30. His delegation had taken special note of the emphasis placed by ECA on the need for mobilizing research and training resources, on the speedy application of science and technology to development problems, and on new methods of international financing and new types of industrial co-operation. It had also noted with interest the report of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut drawing attention to the lack of competent personnel.

31. With regard to the philosophy of regional co-ordination, the difficulty of reorganizing the work of the regional economic commissions was primarily due to the fact that the United Nations system had not originally been designed to carry out the executing and operational functions now expected of it. The Council was faced with the task of attempting to rationalize not a single body but four different systems within it: first, the United Nations Secretariat as the central nervous system, secondly, the specialized agencies with their separate constitutions and relative autonomy, thirdly, the system of voluntary contributions largely administered by UNDP and, lastly, IBRD and its associates. Much remained to be done if those systems were to be merged into a harmonious whole. That important and urgent matter was an essential task of co-ordination to which the Council should address itself.

32. With regard to the substantive contribution to be made by the regional economic commissions, his delegation agreed that it was important to maintain a balance between specialization and the need to integrate. It had noted the anxiety of some of the less developed countries about the

growing preoccupation of developed countries with problems of the human environment, which the former considered to be a diversion from the central task of development. One of the main tasks of the Council and of the regional economic commissions should be to bring together the interests and preoccupations of different regions and of countries at different levels of development within those regions. The environmental problems with which the developed countries were faced were themselves products of an earlier period of rapid development. His delegation did not view attempts to solve them as an escape from responsibility for more central matters of development.

33. In attempting to reform the regional economic commissions it should be remembered that pruning was necessary for fruitful growth. In the United Nations attempts were too often made to reform by addition. It was necessary first to distinguish levels of responsibility. If the Council had to deal with all levels of responsibility simultaneously it would have no time for the critical task of evaluating priorities. The regional economic commissions should discriminate carefully between activities of high, medium and low priority. The effort made by ECAFE in that connexion had been extremely useful.

34. It was important to determine which bodies in the system should take decisions and which should take action. Should the regional economic commissions, for instance, become action bodies with the necessary budget and staff for the purpose, or should they be purely co-ordinating bodies? It was necessary to determine their role in evaluating and reviewing the priorities and programme for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and to decide how to relate their activities to the responsibility of the Council. There was at present very little co-ordination between the organs of the United Nations system concerned with budget and finance and the Council, with its responsibility for policy and programme. It was difficult to see how to achieve quality control of programmes until those two sectors of activity had been brought together.

35. From its initial role as a catalyst, the United Nations had moved on to become involved in the implementation of policies. As they increased their support to development, Governments would be increasingly concerned about the philosophy, organization and functioning of the system and its reform with a view to more effective utilization of resources.

36. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom), reserving his delegation's right to speak on various aspects of the item at a later date, said that ECE should work in a spirit of co-operation and not of confrontation. By concentrating on practical work and avoiding propaganda exchanges it would promote not only its own interests but those of the United Nations as whole.

37. His delegation looked forward to the ECE Conference on Problems relating to Environment to be held at Prague in 1971. ECE was an appropriate body for co-operation in that sector, since all its members were to some extent affected by the problem.

38. He welcomed the Executive Secretary's analytical report on the state of European trade and hoped that practical results would flow from further work in the Committee on the Development of Trade, to which the United Kingdom would do its best to contribute.

39. With regard to draft resolution E/L.1336, the United Kingdom considered that United Nations bodies should avoid public debate and votes on the subject of East Germany while difficult but promising discussions were taking place between the two parts of Germany. Some Eastern European countries seemed unwilling to see the matter dealt with by quiet diplomacy. Having pressed the matter to a vote in ECE, where it had been defeated, it was regrettable that they now wished to do the same in the Council. His delegation could not see how such action could contribute to the success of the negotiations which were taking place, and would vote against the draft resolution.

40. Mr. MADAVHI (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that the increasing emphasis being placed on industrialization as a means of accelerating the economic development of developing countries made the co-ordination of industrialization activities in the United Nations system correspondingly important. He thus welcomed the fact that the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions and the Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut had recognized the value of their co-operation with UNIDO. Working arrangements had been established to provide for the fullest possible co-operation in the industrial sector, including harmonization of programmes and joint implementation of projects. Provision had also been made for co-operation with other regional and sub-regional groupings. Representatives of the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut had visited Vienna in November 1969 at the invitation of the Executive Director of UNIDO for an exchange of views on co-ordination of programmes and activities, including co-operation in field projects in the region. It was intended to continue to hold such meetings annually.

41. A number of joint activities had taken place in many areas of common interest. In the ECAFE region, UNIDO had taken part in the Second Asian Conference on Industrialization and the Manila Investment Promotion Meeting; in the ECA region, in the Investment Promotion Meetings in Morocco and Tanzania and in the establishment of a centre for small enterprises in Ghana; and in the ECLA region, it had co-operated with the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning and participated in the ECLA study on the Andean scheme.

42. Co-operation with ECE had continued to expand in a number of areas of common interest, including urban planning and environmental problems. ECE had assisted in particular in placing some three hundred UNIDO fellows in European countries. Co-operation with the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut would be substantially strengthened through the establishment of an in-

dustry unit to support UNIDO's operational activities in the countries served by the Office.

43. UNIDO's sixteen regional advisers had made a noteworthy contribution to co-operation with the regional bodies and would provide an effective link with the activities of the United Nations Multi-national Inter-disciplinary Development Advisory Teams.

44. The common effort could lead in the coming decade to a unified programme of action in the industrial sector which would utilize to the fullest possible extent the available resources of UNIDO, the regional economic commissions and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut.

45. Mr. HAMID (Sudan) said that his delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution E/L.1336. He had not found the reasons put forward by the representative of the United Kingdom for voting against the draft resolution acceptable. Apart from the German Democratic Republic, all European States, whatever their economic or social systems, were members of ECE. The German Democratic Republic had for years merely been claiming its rights.

46. There was a legal basis for admission of the German Democratic Republic to membership in ECE by a resolution of the Economic and Social Council. The Federal Republic of Germany had been admitted to ECE in 1955 in precisely the same way. In the opinion of his delegation, the refusal of membership to the German Democratic Republic had considerably impaired the work of ECE, which would function much more effectively if membership were granted to that country. The German Democratic Republic had a large economic, scientific and technical potential which would facilitate the achievement of ECE's main objectives.

47. The matter was a purely economic one. The question of politics had been introduced by those countries which were opposing admission of the German Democratic Republic in a manner not in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

48. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that although the Council's primary concern was with economic and social affairs, the attitude of a country in such affairs ultimately stemmed from its political beliefs. When the question of the admission of the Federal Republic of Germany to ECE had arisen, it had been discussed in a purely political manner and the decision to admit that country had been a political one.

49. The representative of the United Kingdom had said that an attitude of co-operation rather than confrontation was desirable in ECE. The Soviet delegation wholeheartedly agreed. Co-operation, however, must be based on a clear recognition of realities. There was a State called the German Democratic Republic. Those who refused to face that reality were engaging in confrontation. The same representative had suggested that much could be done by quiet diplomacy. The Soviet Union in no way rejected the idea of diplomacy, if there was a serious prospect of achieving results. If there was no such prospect, however, it

did not think that diplomacy should be allowed to camouflage a blatant anomaly.

50. His delegation's position was based on a desire to foster co-operation and develop European security. Two German States existed, whether members liked it or not. It was high time that the Council took a clear-cut stand as to whether the German Democratic Republic was to be accepted into ECE and the world community.

51. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) said draft resolution E/L.1336 was rooted in a tortured political history, as yet unresolved. The problem was one which, in essence, had to be solved by the German people. The matter had been dealt with by ECE itself at its twenty-fifth session, and it therefore seemed unnecessary to go over the same ground again so soon afterwards. There were other forums more appropriate for the discussion of political questions such as membership of the United Nations. He did not deny the competence of the Economic and Social Council to deal with such a matter but thought it wiser for the Council to refrain from doing so.

52. He could not agree with the representative of the USSR that quiet diplomacy had failed. It appeared to his delegation to be the only way in which the problem could be resolved. He thought the talks which had been started between the two Germanys were quite promising and could not see that there would be any great loss to the international community if the participation of the German Democratic Republic in its work were temporarily postponed.

53. Mr. FERNAND-LAURENT (France) said he did not share the pessimism expressed by the representative of the USSR concerning the discussions between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. Any intervention of the Council at that juncture would be inexpedient and might have a negative effect.

54. In any case, the question was first and foremost of concern to Europe, and the European countries had had a chance to discuss the matter during the twenty-fifth session of ECE. A Polish proposal along the same lines as draft resolution E/L.1336 had been defeated. No new development had occurred in the interim. The Council, which contained both European and non-European members, was not a very suitable forum to decide the issue.

55. Since his delegation considered that it was neither the right time nor the right place for the draft resolution, it would vote against it.

56. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it had been alleged that the Economic and Social Council was not the proper forum for a draft resolution concerning admission of the German Democratic Republic to membership of the Economic Commission for Europe. If that was so, he wondered why the Federal Republic of Germany had been admitted to ECE by the Council. On that occasion, the then representative of the United States of America had argued that the Federal Republic existed and should be granted the right, which

was its due, of serving as a full member of ECE. The cases were fully comparable; it was the same forum and the same legal situation. The then representative of the United States of America had further noted that there was every reason to admit the Federal Republic to ECE and that no arguments against such admission had been adduced during the discussion. He had added that ECE could hardly be expected to deal with all the various economic problems of Europe satisfactorily in the absence of one of the most economically important countries of Europe. The two situations were precisely similar; the German Democratic Republic was undoubtedly one of the most economically important countries of Europe.

57. The representative of France had said that the matter was a purely German one. On the previous occasion, however, in 1955, the French representative, after saying that the French Government considered it unfortunate that the question of the unification of Germany remained unsolved, had voted in favour of the admission of the Federal Republic of Germany. There appeared to be a certain lack of logic in the French position.

58. His delegation contended that the admission of the German Democratic Republic would strengthen ECE rather than destroy it. The draft resolution was meant to bring about a compromise, not a confrontation. The legal status of both East Germany and West Germany was exactly the same and no distinction should be made between the two countries.

59. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) said he would have preferred not to take the floor since the matter under discussion was within the competence – though not the exclusive competence – of the countries of Europe. Members of the Council had come to discuss other problems connected with development and particularly the problems of the developing countries which were their paramount concern.

60. His delegation agreed with the comments by the representatives of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France, and wished to add the following consideration. For a number of years, representatives in the General Assembly, the Council and other United Nations organs had stressed the importance of the regional economic commissions and the need for decentralization of United Nations activities. The Council had recognized the competence of the regional economic commissions to solve some of the problems which, in the past, would have been placed before other United Nations organs. At its twenty-fifth session, ECE had dealt with the problem of the admission of the German Democratic Republic at some length. Without denying the Council's competence in the matter, his delegation thought that the Commission's decision ought to be respected.

61. If draft resolution E/L.1336 was put to the vote, his delegation would vote against it.

62. Mr. PATHMARAJAH (Ceylon) said it seemed wrong to his delegation that the German Democratic Republic was the only country excluded from ECE. If the Commission's work was to be effective, it was essential that all the

countries of Europe should participate in it. The fact that the German Democratic Republic was a perfectly viable and thriving State was conceded by all independent authorities. Its standard of living was very high and it was one of the more prominent industrial countries of Europe. The question had been left in abeyance too long and it was time to settle it. The General Assembly, moreover, had called upon all European states having different social and political systems to co-operate in economic matters.

63. His delegation would therefore vote in favour of the draft resolution if it was put to a vote.

64. Mr. GANAO (People's Republic of the Congo) said he had been most surprised to learn that certain problems were reserved for European countries. He had believed that the Economic and Social Council was concerned with economic co-operation and his delegation had become a sponsor of the resolution in the belief that the entry of the German Democratic Republic into ECE would help such co-operation. Even if the Congo was not one of the Powers directly concerned, it nevertheless followed with great interest the negotiations between the two German States. The suggestion had been put forward that the participation of the German Democratic Republic in the work of ECE would hinder those negotiations. His delegation found that difficult to believe and hoped that the delegations making such allegations would prove them.

65. He formally requested that the draft resolution, of which his delegation was a sponsor, should in due course be put to the vote.

66. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the representative of Italy had spoken of the question as having been disposed of in ECE. It was not the same question, however. The question before ECE had been the form in which the German Democratic Republic might be officially invited to participate in ECE's twenty-fifth session. Draft resolution E/L.1336 was concerned with amendment of paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of ECE.

67. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) said that all the arguments advanced by both sides were contained in the report of ECE (see E/4822, paras. 10-15).

68. He thought it unwise for the Economic and Social Council to involve itself in political matters to the detriment of its economic and social work.

69. The representative of the People's Republic of the Congo had implied that the matter was a purely economic one. It was strange, therefore, that the division in the Council was along purely political lines. The phenomenon of the two Germanys was anachronistic at a time when everybody was talking of larger economic units. If the matter was postponed, it might be solved without the need for a discussion in the Council, which, in any case, would not be beneficial.

70. If the sponsors insisted on putting the draft resolution to the vote, his delegation would vote against it.

71. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) said that the Council was becoming involved in a historical problem which was one of the consequences of the Second World War. Some very delicate discussions were in progress on that problem and at least one of the parties thereto believed it would be detrimental to the talks if the German Democratic Republic was admitted to ECE.

72. With reference to the quotations by the representative of the USSR from statements by the representative of the United States of America in 1955, he said that the régimes of the two German States were very different. At the time of the Federal Republic of Germany's admission, it had already been a member of several specialized agencies and had been recognized by 90 per cent of the nations of the world. Neither at that time nor since had that been true of East Germany.

73. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) said that although ECE had been called upon to take a decision on the admission of the German Democratic Republic in a slightly different form from the draft resolution before the Council, the problem remained the same. His delegation referred members to the statement it had made in the Commission, which applied equally to the current position.

74. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that, according to the representative of the United States, one party to the discussions between the two German States thought that the admission of the German Democratic Republic into ECE would hinder the talks. His delegation happened to know that the second party to those talks thought they would be assisted by its admission.

75. Mr. TODOROV (Bulgaria) said that, although the draft resolution before the Council dealt solely with economic and social co-operation, purely political arguments were being used by its opponents. It had been stated that the Council was not the proper forum in which to discuss the matter, just as only a few months before the competence of ECE had been called in question. It was anachronistic that only one of two sovereign German States should be a member of ECE.

76. Mr. NOLAN (Ireland) said his delegation did not agree that the Council was the appropriate forum for a decision on the matter at the present time. It would be highly unusual procedure for the Council to decide to admit a territory to membership in a regional economic commission whose members had already expressed themselves negatively on the subject. The problem was a highly sensitive political issue and could not be solved in the Council. In any event, the adoption of the draft resolution might well hamper the delicate political discussions in progress between the two parts of Germany. For those reasons his delegation would vote against the draft resolution.

77. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document E/L.1336.

*The draft resolution was rejected by 13 votes to 6, with 7 abstentions.*

78. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation noted with regret that once again the question of the admission of the German Democratic Republic to membership in ECE had not been settled. That was all the more unfortunate as many representatives had spoken in favour of international solidarity and in favour of the participation of all countries in international co-operative endeavours.

79. The political discrimination displayed by several countries with respect to the participation of the German

Democratic Republic in ECE hindered efforts to reduce international tension. The decision not to allow the German Democratic Republic to participate in ECE was gravely prejudicial both to European co-operation in general and to the work of the Commission. The full responsibility for that situation must be borne by those countries which had opposed the admission of the German Democratic Republic to ECE.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.