



## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

FORTY-NINTH SESSION

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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*President:* Mr. MARAMIS (Indonesia)

### Opening of the session

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the forty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Council.

### Tribute to the memory of Sir David Owen

*On the proposal of the President, the members of the Council observed a minute's silence in tribute to the memory of Sir David Owen.*

### AGENDA ITEM 1

#### Adoption of the agenda (E/4860 and Add.1)

2. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the provisional agenda (E/4860), and to the note by the Secretary-General (E/4860/Add.1) transmitting a request by the delegation of Peru for a supplementary item entitled "Measures to be taken following the earthquake in Peru". If there was no objection, he would assume that the Council decided to place that item on its agenda and would consider it at an early date.

*It was so decided.*

*The provisional agenda (E/4860 and Add.1) was adopted.*

#### Statement by the Secretary-General

3. The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that twenty-five years had passed since the birth of the United Nations. For institutions as well as for men, anniversaries were occasions for reflecting upon the past and for setting sights on the future.

4. It was mostly for its political performance that the United Nations was judged by the man in the street. Those involved in United Nations activities often deplored that

the public was not sufficiently aware of the Organization's extensive work in the economic and social field, which, they believed, was inadequately reported by the information media. But they should not deceive themselves: the people and the mass media has a good instinct for the problems which faced the world. They saw conflicts, hatred, dissension and weapons. And they considered that those were the problems which the United Nations should solve above all others.

5. Emerging from the holocaust of the Second World War, the drafters of the Charter of the United Nations had had the same instinct when they had established peace as the paramount objective of the Organization. With the exception of the great emancipation of the colonial peoples and their achievement of independence, which had been one of the most glorious pages in the history of the United Nations, the political record of the Organization had been an uneasy mixture of success and failure. On the credit side, the United Nations could take pride in having been an open channel of access and communication among Governments, including those of the two super-Powers; in having provided an instrument for vocal complaint as well as quiet diplomacy; in having prevented local crises from turning into broader, possibly world-wide conflicts; and in having placed the use of force, territorial ambitions and national misdeeds under the sharp eyes and moral judgement of the world community.

6. On the debit side, despite such limited successes as the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, were the failure of the United Nations to curb the armaments schizophrenia, which had led to the emergence of such concepts as "over-kill capacity" and to a yearly waste of \$200,000 million — a trend which was now spreading dangerously to the smaller nations; its inability to turn the dissensions and power neuroses of nations into common and constructive endeavours for mankind; its failure to pacify two theatres of conflict — the Middle East and South-East Asia; and its lack of success in making the Organization universal, leaving outside the realm of world-wide co-operation the People's Republic of China — with its population of 750 million — as well as the several divided countries.

7. He had wanted briefly to recall those few basic political facts before turning to the role of the Economic and Social Council, for he felt that the success of much of what the Council was trying to do would depend upon a change in the political climate and in the relations between nations.

8. Looking at the economic and social record of the Organization, a much brighter picture emerged.

9. First, hand-in-hand with the process of decolonization and in conformity with the ideals of the Charter, the

concepts of economic and social justice and of human dignity had made enormous progress throughout the world thanks to the existence of the United Nations. Prior to the Second World War two-thirds of the globe had been virtually closed to those ideas. Today, they had begun to pervade even the most remote villages of the world. The United Nations and its agencies had served, in a way, as a parliament of mankind, where poor nations, like poor people in national assemblies, could raise their voices, proclaim their aspirations, denounce injustice and demand a remedy. The United Nations had acted as a vent to an explosive force. It had promoted concern for one of the greatest tensions of the present era: the existence side-by-side on the same planet of extreme poverty and affluence. It had compelled the attention of the rich countries and had encouraged them to act. It had brought closer together, around a common cause, the two deeply divided economic and political systems which had emerged from the industrial revolution. It had enhanced the concept of international solidarity and had diverted some of the energies of conquest, power and influence to a generous world-wide human cause. It had thus been a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations, as prescribed by the Charter.

10. Secondly, in the pursuit of that objective the United Nations and the specialized agencies had prepared what could probably be considered as the most complete and most elaborate file of analyses and proposals for action in the history of mankind. Under the guidance of the Economic and Social Council and its functional and regional economic commissions, and of the General Assembly and the governing bodies of the specialized agencies, an enormous programme of data collection, analysis and recommendations for action had been carried out. In 1945 little if anything had been known about the developing countries. Today a great deal was known about their problems and their needs. A magnificent page of the story of human concern and knowledge had thus been written together by the States Members of the United Nations. That process had not always been easy; it had been fraught with frustration, hesitation and delaying actions. Thus it had only been towards the end of the past twenty-five years that the United Nations had won the battle for the recognition of industrialization and trade as two of the main factors of economic progress and greater world-wide justice and equality.

11. Thirdly, the world had witnessed the birth of the first rudiments of true international action. The authors of the Charter could look proudly today at United Nations technical co-operation, at the Organization's pre-investment efforts, at WFP and at the mobilization of the entire United Nations system of agencies for the development effort. It was a source of great pride and hope for mankind, when one visited the developing countries today, to see that part of their struggle for economic and social betterment was waged under the common flag of the United Nations. Resources, men, ideas, experience and endeavours from all over the globe were moulded together in those magnificent first examples of human solidarity. Embodied in the presence of the United Nations, that solidarity was part of the daily life of the developing countries. The emergence of

nationhood and independence had taken place within the broader framework of an interdependent and concerned world. The United Nations had a moral meaning for the children of those countries who were at the age when the mind was receptive to the indelible imprints of love of fellow human beings. Seeds of future understanding and solidarity among men were thus being implanted in the impoverished and more populous two-thirds of the world.

12. Fourthly, a considerable new step forward had been made recently with the progressive acceptance of the concept of an international development strategy. Earlier, in the Economic and Social Council and its Committee for Development Planning, the idea of concerted world-wide action had been making progress and had found a first timid expression in the First United Nations Development Decade. But it had been the magistral effort of UNCTAD that had thrust open the door to a development strategy. It had revealed for the first time the canvas of a well-structured plan encompassing national and international action, internal and external mobilization of resources, agriculture and industry, and trade and finance, and adumbrating for the first time the prospect of an international division of labour conducive to overcoming inequality among men throughout the world. In the Second United Nations Development Decade, that vision would be embodied in a time-table of action and commitment. No one should deceive himself and underestimate the difficulties which the developed countries would encounter in their national administrations and parliaments to obtain acceptance of such bold and novel ideas. Their degree of acceptability varied greatly with the progress made towards the concept of solidarity with the poorer regions of the world. That was why the question of the mobilization of public opinion had received such prominence in the Council's deliberations.

13. Fifthly and last, nations during the past twenty-five years had become increasingly aware of the fact that international co-operation was no longer a matter solely of politics. The strait jacket of narrow, inward-looking nationalism was bound to crack under the heavy pressure of a planet clamouring for global ways and global means. Thus, international co-operation had made its greatest strides during that period not in the field of politics – still nourished by outmoded concepts and dreams – but in those fields in which the world could not function without such co-operation. The world had seen, therefore, the emergence of a remarkable system of international agencies which now covered practically every main sector of human activity. Today, fourteen agencies and institutions were active in co-operating with the United Nations in the fields of agriculture, health, labour and management, social security, education, science and culture, atomic energy, transport, communications, meteorology, international monetary issues and, last but not least, trade and industry. The creation of those institutions and their contribution to the non-political endeavours of the United Nations represented a co-operative effort without precedent in history. Less obvious, but perhaps just as significant, had been their help in mobilizing the interest and co-operation of national ministries and professional groups. The United

Nations thus faced the coming decade and the last quarter of the twentieth century with vastly improved and strengthened means of action.

14. Such was the record of the past. What was likely to lie in store for humanity in the future? The Secretary-General wished to express a few thoughts on that future.

15. He would first like to comment on the relationship between the political objectives and the economic and social objectives of the Organization. It had been recognized in the Charter that peace was dependent to a large extent on the achievement of social progress and a higher standard of living. The work of the Economic and Social Council had therefore been conceived as a means of reducing tensions and strengthening peace. But, while the Council had spared no effort during those many years to study the problems of economic development, to devise remedial action and policies, to set in motion new programmes and to try to influence public opinion, the rug, so to speak, had been almost drawn from under its feet.

16. The political relations between nations had not substantially improved. Expenditures on armaments had skyrocketed. Enormously expensive space programmes had been launched. The claims for resources had increased everywhere. The demands for ever higher standards of living and consumer goods had not abated. And now sizeable expenditures were required because of new mass problems, such as urban concentration and the deterioration of the environment.

17. The demands for action in favour of the less developed countries were likely, therefore, to encounter increased resistance in the more advanced countries. There might be less money for foreign aid and greater opposition to the entry of goods from the developing countries.

18. That was why he believed that during the years to come members of the Council must face together with determination the problems of world priorities. It would be more and more difficult for the Economic and Social Council to deal with economic and social development in isolation. The Council should review and judge each year a world economy in which armaments were treated as a waste and no longer as a "product". It should not passively accept that the door should be slammed on economic and social development by military priorities. It would do little good to prepare additional cases and propose new programmes for economic development if they were likely to be rejected outright for overriding military and political reasons. That was why he had recently advocated with a more pressing voice that the leaders of the great nations, including the People's Republic of China, should meet in order to initiate a change from confrontation and division to the building of a safe and peaceful world. It was high time that the main causes of the world's present troubles were faced with intelligence and courage. The people were becoming impatient. New tensions were mounting. How much longer could mankind continue on the present path of division, suspicion and waste in a world already united by scientific and technological progress?

19. The Economic and Social Council had a great role to play in enlightening Governments and their leaders. It

should concern itself increasingly with the economic management of the world's resources, both human and physical. It should aim at opening the eyes of Governments to the obstacles which stood in the way of a more rational utilization of those resources, to a better distribution of income and to common projects and endeavours of nations aimed at improving life on earth and at preventing its deterioration. For example, data on armaments expenditures should be collected on a yearly basis and reviewed by the Council. A close link should be established between the Development Decade and the Disarmament Decade. There should be fewer theoretical and detailed studies on the development process, since most of what needed to be known in order to act was already known. Henceforth the primary preoccupation should be with action. The Council should review the list of plans and proposals prepared by the first and second sessions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and, in connexion with the Second United Nations Development Decade, should establish a time-table and minimum targets for implementation.

20. The Council must raise its voice — which was that of reason — and speak out to those who, for outdated political and military considerations, drew the world each year into deeper difficulties. Kazantzakis had written: "If you were just, O God, you should have given strength to those who fight for right and not to those who are for wrong." The United Nations must redress the uneven distribution of strength between the forces of negation and the forces of construction. That remained its basic duty to the Charter.

21. Further progress should also be made during the years to come in strengthening multilateral programmes. A much greater part of external aid should be channelled through the United Nations system. The developing countries had been saying for years to the rich countries: "If you really want to help us, there should be no strings attached to your aid. We would therefore prefer international aid to bilateral aid." It had taken several years to develop the concept of aid through the United Nations system, to prove its merits and advantages and to transform many disbelievers in the donor countries into convinced adherents. The most sceptical among them had had to recognize even that, from a purely economic point of view, their countries did not lose anything in the process. But the world had gained enormously in a political way from such aid: whatever human and physical resources had been channelled through it had been diverted from the divisive power game of nations. Those resources, no matter how modest they might be, were a true embodiment of world-wide solidarity and a first reassuring image of how nations could work together for a peaceful and rewarding common human cause on earth. It should be the task of the Economic and Social Council to consolidate that success and to bring it a considerable step forward.

22. Looking at another aspect of the future, the Secretary-General was sure that during the forthcoming session the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, as also the heads of the specialized agencies, would want to give the Council an indication of what lay in store for

humanity on what was still erroneously called the "non-political front". The Under-Secretary-General had recently given him a short statistical paper highlighting the main changes that had occurred in the world demographic and economic situation during the past twenty years. There could be no doubt about the conclusion deriving from those figures: humanity had already stepped with one foot into a totally new epoch in the history of the world, the epoch of mass phenomena due to the multiplication of human life.

23. Some of the figures were: the number of humans on earth had increased from 2,485 million in 1950, when the first meaningful post-war statistics had been available in the United Nations, to 3,632 million today. The world death rate had been reduced from 17 per thousand in 1950 to 14 per thousand in 1970. Thirty-seven per cent of the world's people today lived in urban areas compared with 28 per cent in 1950. World industrial production had tripled since 1950. The volume of world exports had quadrupled. Agricultural production had increased 1.7 times. The phenomenal growth in the production of certain commodities was illustrated by petroleum output, which had increased five times since 1950, plastics which had increased fifteen times, aluminium five times, cement four times, crude steel 2.8 times, motor vehicles 2.7 times, and so forth.

24. The statistics published by the United Nations and its specialized agencies showed a doubling or tripling of most world aggregates during the past twenty years. Projections for the future indicated further accelerated changes in practically every direction. The world population was sure to reach 6,000 million before the end of the twentieth century. At the recent session in San Francisco commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, one speaker had gone so far as to project a world population of 100,000 million in a century and a half, if the present growth rate persisted.

25. While the population increase was greatest in the less developed sectors of the world and the consumption explosion greatest in the developed areas, a continued spread of the industrial revolution to other parts of the globe must be foreseen. High population figures would then be multiplied by high consumption figures, yielding staggering results. It was quite an interesting exercise in statistics to visualize a world in which individual consumption would be the same everywhere as in the United States. For example, if a world population of 6,000 million were some day to use the same number of passenger vehicles per person as the United States today, the number of vehicles in the world would reach two and a half thousand million.

26. Those were a few illustrations of the age of mass phenomena into which humanity has emerged. Many estimates and forecasts did not even exist, since the human mind was not yet fully prepared to project in terms of new time and new world-wide dimensions. Little had been done, for example, to calculate the totality of wastes and deleterious materials which were being introduced by nations and international means of transportation into the atmosphere and oceans.

27. He believed therefore that the moment had come when the Economic and Social Council must daringly look into the problems of the future. Neither those problems nor the mass phenomena of the planet could any longer be considered as visionary. They had become part of a new realism imposed on the world by the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and by its consequences for the biology of the human race. At a recent meeting, at United Nations Headquarters, of a private group of some of the best minds of the present era, the proposal had been made to create within the United Nations a committee on the future. It would be worth-while for the Economic and Social Council to look into such a proposal and to broaden considerably the time-horizon of the work of the United Nations system. There were of course very great difficulties inherent in such an approach, but the Council must accustom itself as soon as possible to the new and unforeseen challenges of accelerated and interacting world-wide phenomena. It must diagnose sufficiently ahead of time the realities and the dangers of tomorrow. It could save the world considerable resources and difficulties if it detected the emergence and forecast the behaviour of new galloping phenomena or tensions and gave the necessary warning-signals in time. That was the role of the United Nations and of its specialized agencies. No one else in the world was at so favourable a vantage point to perform that task.

28. The Economic and Social Council could also make further progress in another direction which might help to reduce present tensions and release resources for the establishment of a safe, peaceful and prosperous world order: namely, better and reciprocal understanding between different economic and social systems. He had often underlined that ideologies were one of the main reasons for the division of some countries which were otherwise bound by common ties of history, language and culture. Ideologies, more generally, had split the world into hostile and armed compartments which were contrary to the common nature of man and to the necessity of living in peace together on the small spaceship Earth.

29. Much had already been done towards the idea and practice of peaceful coexistence between the groups which were represented in the United Nations. With the impact on the Organization of the developing countries, which were interested in results rather than in theories, much progress had been made in the United Nations to dissipate the heat from the earlier ideological debate. There was more mutual understanding today than there had been during the cold war period. Perhaps the time had come to take a new step forward and to look objectively and without passion into the multiple methods of solving the economic and social problems of the era. In a world of several thousand million people, who were divided into highly industrialized societies and regions of extreme poverty, each with its own culture and special problems, there could be no universal recipe or exclusive system.

30. It had to be realized that adaptation and change were imperative to the survival of social systems and institutions; the world had become so complex, the pace of change so rapid and the newly emerging problems so numerous, that

no rigid system, however well established on a few sacrosanct principles, was able to cope with all problems. He believed that the Council was about to embark on the most variegated search for political, institutional, legal and moral solutions to the social problems of the era.

31. Nations must therefore enrich each other with what had proved good in the art of governing men and managing the environment. Private initiative might be the solution in one case, public initiative might be the answer in another. Many countries had demonstrated that the two could coexist and that one could admirably complement or even correct and stimulate the other. Each system had good and bad aspects.

32. The Economic and Social Council could look anew at East-West economic relations and establish a new programme for better understanding and co-operation. The tremendous changes in science and technology in particular should be capable of bringing the two systems closer together. Science and technology had been able to link the earth to the moon, and they should be no less capable of uniting people who were living on the same planet, divided essentially by man-made barriers.

33. Within a new concern for the problems of the world as a whole — developed and under-developed, socialist and private enterprise systems — might also lie the key to the future work of the Economic and Social Council.

34. He had often thought that the work of the Council should be less technical and closer to the simple aspirations and understanding of the people. The Council should be able to prepare for the General Assembly each year, with the co-operation of the specialized agencies, a broad evaluation of the state of the world and its new emerging trends. Such a report could delineate the main developments and trends in science and technology and in the economic, social, psychological, cultural and environmental situation of the world.

35. He wished to add a few words in his capacity as Chairman of the ACC. The year 1970 was the twenty-fifth anniversary not just of the United Nations itself, but of the United Nations system, the network of international organizations and programmes related to the United Nations, or forming part of it, which worked under the co-ordinating authority of the Council and the General Assembly. It was not too much to say that most of the achievements of the United Nations in the economic and social fields had only been possible as a result of the close, active, daily support and co-operation of the members of that system.

36. That should be borne in mind when reforms were undertaken or explored for the purpose of strengthening institutional arrangements in the United Nations system. At the management level, the main link between the members of that system was the ACC, which supervised a network of arrangements for inter-agency consultation and co-operation in respect of an ever-broadening range of activities. That body — which had had a very useful series of meetings with the CPC the previous week — had decided, in order to increase the assistance which it could render to the Council direct, to establish small panels or groups of its

members to deal in depth with particular issues of current importance. The first such group was to study and to anticipate the many implications for the work of the organizations in the United Nations system of that historic breakthrough in plant breeding and the use of high-yielding cereals popularly known as the “green revolution”. Other groups would be formed on aspects of activities in the United Nations system for the application of science and technology to development. A preliminary meeting on emergency assistance through the United Nations system, bringing together all interested agencies and senior United Nations officials, had just been held and other such meetings would follow soon: The task to which they were addressing themselves was how best to develop and organize the assistance of the United Nations in cases of natural disaster. The importance and urgency of that question had, alas, been underlined only too poignantly by the terrible natural catastrophes of the past few weeks, and had been confirmed in the resolution adopted by the Governing Council of UNDP at its tenth session and those adopted by the Committee of the Whole of ECLA, which had recently held its sixth extraordinary session in New York. In the light of the forthcoming discussions in the Council, he trusted that the capacity of the United Nations to be of assistance to stricken countries in cases of emergency would be greatly strengthened. Special arrangements — an example was the recent appointment of Mr. Prebisch as his personal representative in the context of the Peruvian disaster — might be necessary in connexion with a particular disaster. But, in addition, he proposed to entrust one of his senior officials with the responsibility of acting for him on a regular basis in developing and co-ordinating assistance from the United Nations system in that field and ensuring the closest co-operation with the Red Cross and other voluntary agencies.

37. The discussions in the Governing Council of UNDP on the capacity of the United Nations development system had provided a great stimulus to the thinking of senior officials during recent months, and the conclusions reached would naturally figure largely in the coming deliberations of the Economic and Social Council. Not only were many of the proposals made of direct concern to the Council, but the manner in which United Nations development work was organized inevitably had profound implications for the functioning of the United Nations as a whole in the context of the Second Development Decade. The United Nations faced the coming decade, and the coming quarter-century, with machinery of proven value. Some important adjustments and even reforms were clearly required; equally important, however, was the question whether United Nations machinery was to be fully used by Governments, and used by them in the most effective way. That led back to the role and functioning of the Economic and Social Council. It was the hope of all the organizations in the United Nations system that the Council would be strengthened and that it would assume the full role provided for it in the Charter twenty-five years previously.

38. The Council could thus again become, as it had been during the first years after the Second World War, the central organ which judged the main features of the

“non-political” situation of the world, looked daringly into the future, provided a synthesis of the various directions of change, detected the constant new tensions inherent in human nature and society, warned the world about collective phenomena not discernible to individual nations, promoted and prompted action by Governments, encouraged, when necessary, the creation of new international instruments, and ensured the proper and efficient utilization of those already in existence.

39. In so doing, the Economic and Social Council would help Governments to perform the delicate and increasingly complex task of governing human societies, of foreseeing and monitoring global phenomena, of denouncing and correcting existing and newly emerging injustices and of providing the collective services required to ensure a better, healthier, happier and more beautiful world.

#### Organization of work (E/L.1322 and Amend.1)

40. The PRESIDENT suggested that the supplementary agenda item on the recent disaster in Peru should be taken up in the Co-ordination Committee, in the second week of the session. It would be appropriate to consider the practical measures that could be taken to alleviate that disaster in connexion with the general question of assistance in cases of natural disaster (item 22).

41. In considering that item, the Council could also examine the relevant portions of the report of the UNDP Governing Council on its tenth session (E/4884) and the report of the sixth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLA (E/4883).

42. With regard to agenda item 6 (Regional co-operation), he suggested that the Council might consider the recommendations of the UNDP Governing Council concerning regional structures in the report on its tenth session in addition to the other documents listed in the annotations to the provisional agenda.

*It was so agreed.*

43. Mr. ALZAMORA TRAVERSO (Peru) thanked the members of the Council for their support in including on its agenda the supplementary item requested by his delegation. Peru had suffered the greatest catastrophe in its history, which had left 50,000 dead and 150,000 injured, destroyed entire cities, roads and other vital installations, and caused serious social and economic disruption. Peru was grateful for the effective support and co-operation it had received from the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and from ECLA and UNDP.

44. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) suggested that item 6 (c) (Role of the regional economic commissions in development planning) should be referred to the Economic Committee. The Council should also retain a free hand to refer any matters arising under item 6 (b) (Report on the meetings of the Executive Secretaries) to a committee if necessary.

45. Mr. GORSE (France) said that certain technical aspects of the Second United Nations Development Decade should be discussed by the Economic Committee, although the Decade as a whole was to be considered jointly with item 2 (General discussion of international economic and social policy).

46. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) said that there had been delay in the preparation of documents for a number of items. For that reason, he suggested that the consideration in the Economic Committee of items 4 (a) (International flow of capital and assistance), 9 (Outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries) and 15 (Application of computer technology for development) should be deferred to the end of the session. That would not only leave time for discussion of certain aspects of the Second United Nations Development Decade, as suggested by the representative of France, but also permit the discussions on the items relating to natural resources and science and technology to be closely co-ordinated.

47. Mr. S. SINGH (India) said that, since important parts of the draft of an international development strategy prepared by the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade and set forth in paragraph 16 of the Committee's report on its sixth session,<sup>1</sup> were still incomplete, it would be best if the strategy for the Second Development Decade were discussed outside the plenary. He therefore proposed that a committee of the whole should be established to discuss the main points in detail and submit suggestions to the plenary.

48. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) said that his delegation did not object to the proposals made by the representatives of the United Kingdom and France, but would be very sorry to see the discussion on item 4 (a) deferred. It was a most important item, had a direct bearing on item 3 (Second United Nations Development Decade), and should be discussed as soon as possible. At the present stage no decision should be taken to defer consideration of any item; however, some items might be placed at the end of the list and left over for the next session if necessary.

49. Mr. AMERASINGHE (Ceylon) agreed with the previous speaker and suggested that items 9 and 15 might be placed low on the list of priorities. Item 6 (c) could more appropriately be referred to the Co-ordination Committee than, as the United Kingdom representative had suggested, to the Economic Committee.

50. Mr. de ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil) supported the suggestions which had been made with regard to item 6. He did not oppose referring to a committee certain aspects of the Second United Nations Development Decade which would not normally be dealt with in the plenary, but hoped that the discussion in that committee would help to refocus the question; otherwise it would have no point. He

<sup>1</sup> A/7982, transmitted to the Council by a note by the Secretary-General (E/4876).

suggested that the Council might consider referring item 12 (Development of natural resources) to the Co-ordination Committee, because many aspects of it were generally regarded as co-ordination matters.

51. Mr. NABWERA (Kenya) said that item 12 could not be referred to the Co-ordination Committee, because it did not concern that Committee; it was a special question arising from a draft resolution submitted towards the end of the forty-eighth session. He agreed with the representative of Ceylon that item 6 (c) should be referred to the Co-ordination Committee. The African countries had a number of important points to make in that connexion, particularly regarding the co-ordination of the Council's work with that of the specialized agencies.

52. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) said he wished to give his delegation's views on three items. First, item 3 should remain as a separate item on the agenda, and should also be referred to the Economic Committee, which might be asked to study the points on which no decision had been reached by the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

53. Secondly, he could not agree that item 6 (c) should be referred to the Economic Committee; that would only lead to duplication of effort, for the matter had already been discussed in detail by the specialized agencies.

54. Thirdly, item 12 had been discussed at some length at the forty-eighth session of the Council, and it was important that the debate on it should continue in parallel with the debate on item 14 (Questions relating to science and technology), which was to be taken up in the Co-ordination Committee. He felt that for the present the wisest course would be to adopt the agenda as it stood, on the understanding that the Council could decide to refer individual items to one or other of the committees when they came up for discussion.

55. Mr. FAKHREDDINE (Sudan) supported the Tunisian representative's suggestion regarding item 3. His delegation would be sorry if consideration of any item had to be deferred, and attached particular importance to item 4.

56. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation would not object if item 6 (c) was referred to the Co-ordination Committee instead of to the Economic Committee. The main thing was that it should be discussed in detail by one of the committees.

57. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked why it had been proposed that items 2 and 3 should be considered jointly. The fact that they had aspects in common did not sufficiently justify that proposal.

58. Mr. DRISS (Tunisia) said that the purpose of the proposal to consider items 2 and 3 jointly had been to enable all members to take part in the debate even though some, like the Soviet Union, did not support the idea of the Second United Nations Development Decade and had not participated in previous discussions on it.

59. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) observed that, at the present session, many states were represented by members of Governments, who could not reasonably be asked to restrict their statements to particular items on the agenda.

60. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) agreed with the previous speaker. He was surprised at the suggestion that items 2 and 3 should be separated; they had been considered jointly before and no objections had been raised. If they were not discussed jointly at the present session there would, in effect, be two general debates.

61. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed that the members of Governments who were present must be free to refer to any items they wished, but insisted that at the same time the Council should work through its agenda methodically, taking the items in their numerical order. Item 3 was a logical sequel to item 2; that was why they could not appropriately be discussed jointly.

62. Mr. AMERASINGHE (Ceylon) said that the Second United Nations Development Decade was a separate and important item and should not be submerged in the general debate. The Council should refer it to the Economic Committee, so as to give it the weight it deserved.

63. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) said that the Council had no authority to make any changes in the draft of an international development strategy drawn up by the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade, but could only make recommendations. Not all members of the Preparatory Committee were members of the Council, and to make changes in the draft would necessitate the attendance of the Committee's full membership. In the circumstances, he considered that item 3 should be discussed in plenary only, since little purpose would be served by referring it to the Economic Committee.

64. Mr. AHMED (Secretary of the Council) said that, in the proposed schedule of meetings, two and a half days had been allowed at the end of the second week of the session for informal consultations on item 3. He suggested, in the light of the comments made, that a decision on the timing of the discussion on item 3 should be postponed pending the outcome of those consultations.

65. Though the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade was submitted to the General Assembly, it was also the subject of an item on the Council's agenda, and members were therefore fully entitled to make recommendations on it.

66. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) proposed that item 3 should be dealt with as a separate item, the relevant footnote in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work (E/L.1322) being deleted, and that a decision on whether or not to refer it to a committee should be postponed until the general debate took place. Members should be free to comment on items 2 and 3 either together or separately.

67. Mr. NABWERA (Kenya) said that there were gaps in the draft international development strategy included in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Development Decade which presumably related to points on which the Committee had failed to reach agreement. It was the Council's urgent duty to consider those points and make recommendations on them to the General Assembly.

68. Mr. FRANZI (Italy) supported the Ghanaian representative's proposal, which was in line with the Secretary-General's suggestion (*ibid.*, para. 4, last sentence).

69. Mr. de ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil) said he agreed with the Italian and Greek representatives that no limitations should be imposed on statements by members of Governments and Ministers, whose presence at the Council's session had been encouraged, particularly since the whole purpose of the general debate was to provide for a broad review of the problems of development. As to item 3, he felt it was not yet clear whether any useful purpose would be served by allocating the discussion on the Second United Nations Development Decade to the Economic Committee, and that the best course would be to postpone a decision on the matter until the general debate had been held.

70. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) considered that the general debate should cover both item 2 and item 3, on the understanding that members would be free to refer any aspects of the two items to a committee.

71. Mr. LUKANOV (Bulgaria) supported the Ghanaian representative's proposal. He did not, however, agree with the Argentine representative's interpretation of the Council's role in the matter, which seemed to imply that the Council was less important than the Preparatory Committee.

72. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) said his point was that under General Assembly resolution 2411 (XXIII) establishing the Preparatory Committee, only the General Assembly could make amendments to the draft for an international development strategy prepared by that Committee, though the Council could always make comments and recommendations on it.

73. The PRESIDENT suggested that in the general debate members should be allowed to speak on items 2 and 3 either together or separately, and that a decision on whether or not to refer item 3 to the Economic Committee should be taken after the general debate.

74. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he wished to be quite clear whether items 2 and 3 would be taken together, or separately, as was the wish of some delegations.

75. Mr. VIAUD (France) explained that the purpose of his delegation's proposal to refer item 3 to the Economic

Committee was to permit discussion of the practical aspects of the matter once the general debate had finished. If that proposal were accepted, there would no longer be any confusion between items 2 and 3.

76. Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. S. SINGH (India) expressed their support for the French proposal.

77. After a further brief exchange of views between Mr. de ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil), Mr. NABWERA (Kenya) and Mr. NESTERENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), the PRESIDENT suggested that the French representative's proposal, supported by the Soviet and Indian representatives, be put to the vote.

78. Mr. MILTON (United Kingdom), speaking on a point of order, asked whether he was correct in assuming that the adoption of the French proposal would not preclude discussion of item 3 in plenary.

79. The PRESIDENT said that that assumption was correct.

80. He put to the vote the French proposal that item 3 should be referred to the Economic Committee.

*The proposal was adopted by 21 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.*

81. Mr. VIAUD (France) suggested that the Economic Committee should consider item 3 during the second week of the session, after the discussion on item 12 and before that on items 10 (Multilateral food aid) and 11 (Increase in the production and use of edible protein).

82. The PRESIDENT suggested, in the light of the discussion, that item 6 (c) should be referred to the Co-ordination Committee.

*It was so decided.*

83. The PRESIDENT said that if there were no further comments he would take it that the Council approved the arrangements set out in the note by the Secretary-General as modified in the course of the discussion, on the understanding that the Committees could modify their own time-table in the light of the progress of their work.

*It was so agreed.*

84. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with the agreement arrived at during the organizational meetings held at the beginning of the year, Mr. Franzi (Italy), Vice-President of the Council, and Mr. Mojsov (Yugoslavia), Vice-President of the Council, would be Chairmen of the Economic Committee and the Co-ordination Committee respectively.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.