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*President:* Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium).

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Ahmed (Sudan), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

AGENDA ITEM 8

Reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme:

(c) Technical co-operation activities undertaken by the Secretary-General (E/4663; E/L.1269, E/L.1270) (*resumed from the 1621st meeting*)

1. Mr. AHMAD (Pakistan) said that his delegation considered it necessary that an international corps of volunteers for development should be established; it whole-heartedly supported the eight-Power draft resolution (E/L.1269).

2. Mr. POSNETT (United Kingdom) considered that the Secretary-General's note on the establishment of an international corps of volunteers for development (E/4663) was very helpful. His delegation was in general agreement with the statement made on the subject by the Iranian observer (1619th meeting). No-one, however, seemed to have taken the trouble to inquire how far the developing countries desired the establishment of a volunteer service. It was to be hoped that steps would be taken to ascertain the views of those countries on the creation of such a service.

3. His delegation, like that of Iran, considered that the volunteers should be used for the implementation of United Nations projects, and that the specialized agencies and the Administrator of UNDP should be closely associated with the study envisaged in paragraph 2 of draft resolution E/L.1269. Thought must also be given to the administrative arrangements for recruitment, training, co-ordination and financing.

4. His delegation suggested two guiding principles: efforts should be made to maintain the high standards which had been fixed by existing organizations and to see how far standardization could be achieved while retaining some

degree of flexibility. It was clear from the discussion that some Governments and international organizations had a great deal of experience in the matter, which should be put to use in the study requested of the Secretary-General. In that connexion it would be well to take into account the statement submitted by the International Student Movement for the United Nations (E/C2/685) and the statement of the representative of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (1619th meeting).

5. His delegation considered that it would be more effective and more economical to build on existing foundations. Paragraph 22, sub-paragraphs (b) and (e), of the Secretary-General's note came very close to his delegation's ideas.

6. With regard to the name, it would be preferable to use some such title as "International Volunteer Service" or "Volunteers International" and to avoid acronyms such as UNIVOL or INTERVOL.

7. Recipient Governments should be asked for their views concerning the local supervision and administration of the volunteers. Those duties might perhaps be given to resident representatives or project managers. The Secretary-General should look into that aspect of the matter and would do well to consult recipient Governments and existing volunteer organizations in order to learn their methods of field supervision.

8. A start should be made on a modest scale, so that any shortcomings and defects of the system could be put right without difficulty at the outset. The volunteers should not have the status of civil servants; in that connexion, the experience of FAO might be taken into account. His delegation, too, felt that a volunteer should never be in competition with the young people of the developing countries or be looked upon as a replacement for a qualified expert. That point should be taken into consideration by the Secretary-General. As to the composition of teams, the final word lay with the recipient Governments.

9. Council resolution 849 (XXXII) ought perhaps to be revised, for it appeared to limit the extent to which unpaid volunteers could be assigned to UNDP projects or the cost of their services charged to a project budget. Perhaps rules should be drawn up in order to secure a minimum of uniformity.

10. On the subject of financing, the representative of the World Federation of United Nations Associations had said that increased use of volunteers could save the time of experts. It would thus be possible to reduce the cost of projects. It should be possible to ensure that the volunteers

did not become an additional burden entailing an increase in expenditure. His Government saw no necessity to set up a trust fund at the present time if Council resolution 849 (XXXII) was appropriately amended, and he would be unable to support the establishment of such a fund.

11. Mr. VIAUD (France) reminded the Council that, when he had spoken in the general discussion, he had paid a tribute to the initiative of the Shahinshah of Iran. His Government had particularly welcomed the idea because, even before the suggestion had been made, it had arranged to send volunteers to developing countries.

12. Draft resolution E/L.1269 corresponded only in part to the views of his delegation, which considered it important to take into account the efforts already made by some Governments, including his own. The purpose of the French amendments (E/L.1270) was simply to take up in the operative part the idea expressed in the fourth preambular paragraph.

13. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that volunteers could remain under their own organizations and be attached to projects receiving United Nations assistance simply by means of the good offices of the United Nations and its agencies acting as intermediaries (E/4663, para. 23). That was the whole idea of co-operation between multi-lateral and bilateral aid. For that reason the draft resolution must take into account the fact that the United Nations could call on existing organizations. The right course was to make use of what some Governments had already done rather than ask them to do something unfamiliar to them and to change their methods. It was important that such Governments should find in the draft resolution some acknowledgement of their efforts. Since his Government had only recently seen the French text of the draft resolution, his delegation hoped that the Council would not vote on it immediately.

14. Mr. HOO (Commissioner for Technical Co-operation), presenting a statement of the financial implications of draft resolution E/L.1269, said that the cost of the study which the Secretary General was invited to carry out under operative paragraph 2 could be covered by appropriations for consultants and *ad hoc* groups of experts. Inasmuch as the expert consultants called upon to take part in the study would have to travel, allowance should be made for travel and other expenses up to a maximum of \$2,000. If the Council, at its forty-eighth session, asked the Secretary General to carry out other studies, a further statement of financial implications would be submitted in due course.

15. Mr. McDONALD (United States of America) supported the idea of establishing an international volunteer service; young people should be allowed to serve the international community and to take part in the development of the less advanced countries. He urged the expansion of national volunteer services for development and said that his Government would be prepared to assist others by passing on the experience gained in that area in the United States.

16. However, it would be necessary to make a thorough study of the problems involved in such an enterprise, taking into account the experience gained in such matters and calling on the help of existing volunteer organizations, of the volunteers themselves, and of experts familiar with international problems.

17. His delegation also supported the amendments submitted by the French delegation (E/L.1270), because the wording of operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution E/L.1269 seemed to prejudge the results of the study which the Secretary-General was to make.

18. Mr. KINGUE (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) stated that the UNESCO General Conference, at its fifteenth session, had decided to take new action, for and with young people, to give young people a greater part in national activities. In addition, the Director-General of UNESCO had been authorized to carry out work designed to enlist the participation of young people in national and international development and to associate them as closely as possible with UNESCO's activities, both at the planning stage and at that of implementation. The General Conference had noted the plans put forward by the secretariat, and young people could henceforth be associated, at the request of member States, with UNESCO-assisted projects. UNESCO's experience in such matters pointed to certain conclusions.

19. First, the supply of volunteers usually exceeded the demand, for financial and political reasons. All over the world, young people wished to help, but not unconditionally. The aid rendered should not smack of paternalism or charity and should not be exploited for national political ends. Moreover, the employment situation in some countries explained why the offer of volunteer services sometimes met with resistance.

20. Secondly, bilateral programmes of volunteer service had been developing for some years, and the means available to them far exceeded those which would be allotted to any future programme carried out under United Nations sponsorship. Such programmes should continue to develop under bilateral co-operation, and it was for the Governments giving and receiving aid to take all pertinent decisions.

21. An international corps of volunteers could be extremely useful if the volunteer teams were made up of nationals of several countries, inspired by a true international spirit, and if such teams included volunteers from developing countries so that the volunteer services did not become the exclusive preserve of the rich countries.

22. In order to finance such a volunteer corps it would probably be necessary to establish trust funds, but contributions to such funds should not be tied to the exclusive use of volunteers from the contributing country. The Council would not be able to take any final decisions on questions of organization without a preliminary study of the subject, which should be carried out in consultation

with existing volunteer organizations. If delegations agreed with that view, operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution E/L.1269 should be amended to specify that such organizations should take part in the proposed study.

23. Mr. ABE (Japan) said that the study which the Secretary-General was invited to carry out on the practical arrangements for establishing an international corps of volunteers should take into account the great contributions made by the various existing volunteer organizations, international and national, non-governmental and inter-governmental.

24. However, his delegation wondered whether operative paragraph 2 might not give rise to difficulties. It provided that the Secretary-General should submit his report and recommendations to the Council at its forty-eighth session through the UNDP Governing Council. That seemed a very meagre allowance of time, and it would perhaps be better to say that the report should be submitted at the Council's forty-ninth session. With that proviso, his delegation supported draft resolution E/L.1269 and the French delegation's amendments.

25. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, his delegation had expressed understanding of the Iranian delegation's motives in suggesting that young people should participate in meeting the requirements of the developing countries for skilled personnel. With regard to the proposal for the establishment of an international volunteer corps, however, it had had and continued to have some doubts. First of all, it considered that the skilled manpower requirements of the developing countries should be met through intensified training programmes, and that bringing foreign volunteers into the developing countries might make the problems of employment in those countries even more acute and render the training of skilled personnel more difficult. Furthermore, the establishment of an international corps of volunteers would lead the United Nations to a further expansion of administrative machinery which was already overblown and to an increase in administrative expenses which were already very high. However, his delegation had not opposed the draft resolution under which the General Assembly had requested the Council to study the feasibility of creating a corps of volunteers.

26. At the present stage his delegation would not oppose a new study, but draft resolution E/L.1269 contained two unacceptable provisions. First, in the fourth preambular paragraph, the Council was asked to acknowledge the important contribution of national volunteer schemes and also the useful work being performed. It was true that volunteer services had sometimes done very useful work, for example in Iran, but the results were by no means so favourable in all cases; there had been instances of so-called volunteers from certain national organizations being expelled from a good number of developing countries for reprehensible activities. Secondly, under operative paragraph 1, the Council "welcomed" the idea of establishing

an international corps of volunteers. That statement was premature, to say the least; the Council could express an opinion only after examining the study which the Secretary-General was to make under operative paragraph 2.

27. In view of those considerations, his delegation would abstain from voting on the draft resolution.

28. Mr. EKONDY-AKALA (Congo, Brazzaville) thought that the Council could take no final decision at that stage concerning the establishment of an international corps of volunteers. The study of that questions should be postponed until delegations and the United Nations bodies concerned had examined the Secretary-General's report.

29. His delegation could express no opinion on draft resolution E/L.1269 before transmitting the text to its Government together with the comments of the United Kingdom, French and United States representatives. The developing countries had painful memories of certain volunteer corps and, despite the sincerity of its sponsors' intentions, the draft resolution would have to be studied in detail by those countries if it was not to serve as a pretext for new misbehaviour.

30. Mr. GUELEV (Bulgaria) said that no one could question the lofty intentions of the sponsors of the draft resolution; his delegation, however, which had voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 2460 (XXIII), considered that it was too soon for a final decision on the subject. It might perhaps be desirable to give all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations an opportunity to study all aspects of the problem. Furthermore, it would be preferable not to take any decision, even in principle, on the establishment of an international corps of volunteers without knowing what practical consequences such a decision would have. It would therefore be better to await the conclusions of the Secretary-General's study; an international corps of volunteers should in no case serve as a cover for activities totally unrelated to the desire of young people to participate in the development of the developing countries. Consequently his delegation would be unable to vote in favour of the draft resolution before the Council.

31. Mr. OUANGMOTCHING (Chad) expressed his gratitude to the Shahinshah of Iran for originating the idea of establishing an international corps of volunteers. His country, which was benefiting from the help of volunteers sent from various countries under bilateral arrangements, supported draft resolution E/L.1269 and the French amendments (E/L.1270).

32. Mr. CRANE (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that FAO approved the idea set forth in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution that the Secretary-General should be asked to study the creation of an international corps of volunteers. Furthermore, his organization considered that the general principles laid down in operative paragraph 3 were flexible enough to allow the experience of FAO and other organizations to be turned to account.

33. Mr. BENLER (Turkey) thought that, after hearing the statements of various delegations, he should make a few remarks concerning the draft resolution of which his country was a sponsor. After thanking those who had expressed themselves in favour of the basic idea of the draft resolution, he proposed that, instead of amending the operative part as suggested by the French representative, the Council should find a new wording for the preamble, and in particular for the fourth paragraph, which would extend it to cover the activities of government agencies. If it was so amended, it should be possible for the draft resolution to be adopted unanimously or even by acclamation.

34. Mr. DANIELI (United Republic of Tanzania) said that it was difficult for him, as one of the sponsors of the draft resolution, to accept the French amendments, because they ran counter to its aim and spirit and above all to the request which the General Assembly had made to Council in its resolution 2460 (XXIII). Consequently his delegation would oppose the amendments.

35. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) noted with regret that the discussion on the draft resolution had revealed profound differences of opinion. As the Tanzanian representative had pointed out, the French amendments appeared to depart from the instructions given to the Council in General Assembly resolution 2460 (XXIII).

36. In a spirit of compromise, he moved the adjournment of the debate so that a text acceptable to all delegations might be worked out and submitted to the Council.

37. Mr. RANA (India) shared the Tanzanian and Kuwaiti representatives' objections to the French amendments; he recognized the utility of government agencies in that connexion, but it would be going too far to include the idea in the operative part of the draft resolution. With regard to the amendment to operative paragraph 1, it should be remembered that, in that paragraph, the Council was not taking a final decision but merely confirming the merits of the idea of establishing an international corps of volunteers.

38. In the circumstances, his delegation supported the Kuwaiti representative's motion to adjourn the debate.

39. Mr. McDONALD (United States of America) supported the motion to adjourn the debate for consultations.

40. Mr. LECOURTIER (France) observed that the text of the draft resolution was not as simple as it might seem at first glance and had revealed major differences of opinion. He supported the motion to adjourn the debate on the subject.

41. The CHAIRMAN accordingly suggested that the debate on the draft resolution should be adjourned until the next meeting and that, in the meantime, the sponsors of the draft resolution and of the amendments should be invited to consult together in a spirit of compromise.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.