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President: Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium).

AGENDA ITEM 13

**Programmes of international action relating to youth
(E/4686 and Corr.1 and Add.1) (continued)**

1. Miss ILIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that reference was often made to the "crisis of youth", but it would be more appropriate to think in terms of the crisis of society. Contemporary society apparently did not conform to the concepts of the new generation, brought up in a completely different world where a predominant role was played by science and technology. Mass media of communication had acquainted young people throughout the world on an unprecedented scale with the aspirations of all mankind. It was therefore not unreasonable that they should criticize the behaviour of the older generations and question the validity of existing norms. Consequently, a unique international solidarity among youth was emerging based on a common desire to promote peace and establish a more meaningful and just society. The revolt of youth in many countries, which often assumed undesirable proportions, had its roots essentially in social relations: it reflected dissatisfaction with outmoded educational programmes and outdated institutions and was directed against what was often referred to as the "Establishment". Today, more than ever, young people aspired to a truly human society in which man's integrity would be fully respected.

2. The present youth movement manifested itself in different forms and made its impact on all countries. It had stimulated the thinking of older generations about the fundamental premises of the power structure established long ago at local or national levels. Modern youth was eager to participate actively in resolving a number of questions relating to the development of society. By expressing their willingness to assume their share of responsibility, young people had become a powerful political and social factor in all fields of contemporary life; that was a trend which might be regarded as a prerequisite for the dynamic development of society.

3. While the activities of the United Nations system were no doubt highly beneficial, her delegation had gained the impression from the note by the Secretary-General on programmes of international action relating to youth (E/4686 and Corr.1 and Add.1) that they suffered from what might be called a kind of paternalism. Her remarks should not be construed as criticism, but other forms of activity should also be considered. Attention should be paid to the spiritual needs of the young. Certain activities such as seminars were very useful and Yugoslavia expected much from the proposed conference to be held in 1971 on the participation of youth in the Second United Nations Development Decade. She welcomed the United Nations decision (General Assembly resolution 2460 (XXIII)) to study the feasibility of forming an international corps of volunteers, including youth, for development purposes. The United Nations system should, however, direct its work in respect of youth programmes along the same lines as was being done at the national level in a number of countries. Representatives of youth movements must be given the opportunity to express freely their views on all problems and on the role of international organizations in resolving them. It would be interesting to know how the present dialogue with youth at the national level would be reflected at the international level. Hence it might be advisable to hold a seminar—either regional or world-wide—under the auspices of the programme of the advisory services for human rights, with the exclusive participation of young people, in which they would have a chance to discuss openly all aspects of some of the main contemporary issues, such as the promotion of peace, bridging the gap between the developed and developing countries, respect for human rights, and racial problems. The results of such a seminar might be very useful for Governments and international organizations.

4. Mr. PANGGABEAN (Indonesia) said that the importance which Governments and the international community were attaching to the emergence of youth as a fundamental factor in man's desire for economic and social progress was gaining wider recognition. The world was witnessing youth's dissatisfaction with existing institutions and outmoded political, economic and social structures.

5. While the emergence of youth as a fundamental factor in the political arena was a new phenomenon in the developed countries, youth movements in most of the newly independent countries had played an important role since the beginning, introducing new ideas and initiating activities subsequently taken up by the broader masses of the population. Owing to the continuing discrepancy between the rapidity of social and cultural change and the slowness with which existing institutions in those transitional societies responded to it, the youth movement had become a major catalyst in developing countries.

6. Conscious of the important role which youth movements could play in economic and social development and of the fact that more than 50 per cent of the population of the developing countries was under twenty years of age, Governments and international organizations had been giving increased attention to the problems of youth in their programmes. Various youth programmes had been initiated, such as the pioneer movements, to provide special technical and vocational training and alleviate unemployment among young people.

7. In resolution 1354 (XLV), the Economic and Social Council had, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report at its forty-seventh session on the measures taken to strengthen and co-ordinate existing programmes. ACC had reviewed the work programmes of the United Nations system in which there was a large youth component, but its report (E/4668) did not contain sufficient information on the arrangements to ensure inter-agency co-operation and co-ordination. His delegation was glad to note that, since the adoption of the above-mentioned resolution, some progress had been made in co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations and the various agencies and in strengthening practical field operations. In that connexion, he referred to Council resolution 1407 (XLVI), which again pointed to the need for co-ordinating the activities of the various United Nations bodies in their programmes relating to youth and showed that there was still scope for further efficiency and streamlining. That resolution also requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the various United Nations specialized agencies, to undertake an analytical study in depth on the needs and aspirations of youth.

8. The problem of youth was not confined to some countries alone, but had become universal. The solution should therefore be tackled on an international scale and through appropriate international action, thus supplementing national programmes. The problem had already assumed gigantic proportions and failure to take speedy action might lead to disruption in the economic and social development of many countries. It was therefore the duty of all to seek a solution in order to avoid disaster.

9. Mr. STEPHENS (United States of America) said that the impact of youth upon the current session of the Council, although unseen and unheard, was most unusual. The increasing awareness of the need to understand youth and for its real participation in all that the Council was seeking to achieve grew out of the awareness of the alarming dimensions of national and world crises which the young of today would inherit.

10. It was not only the unanswered questions and unresolved problems which had been received from the past that made the position of youth so difficult. There were also the unforeseen consequences of what the older generation had thought were solutions to problems. Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of all that was being bequeathed to youth was the totally new situations, seemingly insoluble, which had developed in the past two decades and

which called for leadership and the commitment by nations to constructive procedures and mutual responsibilities beyond the capacity of the older generation.

11. Anxiety and uncertainty had acquired new dimensions owing to the shocking fact that starvation awaited increasing millions of helpless people because it had not been possible to check population growth in time or to increase the output of food sufficiently to save them. The plight of those confronted by such circumstances was compounded by their hunger for opportunity, employment and leadership and by the indifference, hypocrisy and moral ambivalence displayed by some in the affluent countries. The present generation could not speak of what youth ought to do without understanding where youth stood.

12. Each major period of a nation's history, or of a civilization, was marked by certain underlying assumptions which gave form and meaning to the social, economic and political activities in which the people were engaged. The present age was characterized by the revolutionary economic and social changes caused largely by the discovery of and uses made of the "Law of the possible". Three simple questions provided the clue to the vast potentials and far-reaching implications of that basic assumption: what was it possible for man to know?; what was it possible for man to do?; and what was it possible for man to become?

13. To the first question, science replied that there was no limit to what man could know. The knowledge which industry had expanded so rapidly and industry's volume of output were so great that computers and centres of electronic control had to be provided for the storage, organization and dissemination of the mass of available information.

14. The answer to the second question was technology, engineering and precision control: it was possible for man to do anything that he wished to do within the limits of his knowledge. Science said that there was sufficient knowledge to enable man to split the atom and technology followed through. Science had made a tradition-shattering prediction: enough was known to free mankind from the paralysing oppression of scarcity with its attendant social evils of poverty and charity; a new dimension in productivity awaited purposeful policies of action designed to provide food, shelter, centres of learning and medical services for all the people in the world. Small wonder that one of the Council's priorities was the transfer of science and technology and their use in accelerating development.

15. Enough had been seen to realize that something more must be done to save man from himself. Modern nations knew how to produce wealth and power but they knew little about the most effective way of using either of them to bring quantitative achievements into balance with qualitative enrichment. Nor were they able to cope with the social evils and crises which wealth and power had created.

16. A major breakthrough in production had been achieved in the post-war years. In addition to assembly-line

techniques, there were the productive capabilities of hundreds of corporate entities which had been co-ordinated, with the result that production was on a scale surpassing man's expectations. One example of that vast process was Apollo 11. The emphasis should be placed on the process and not on any particular nation's achievement: all parts of the world had provided metals, raw materials, precision instruments and skills and millions of workers had contributed to the creation of that new symbol of what man had learned and what he could do.

17. The more advanced a society became in mastering science and technology, the more difficult it was for the individual to retain his individuality and integrity. The process of creating abundance also caused serious social dislocations and made man the automatic servant of mechanized operations. The dehumanizing of life through monotonous mechanization was not confined to any particular country or to any economic system.

18. The second series of factors contributing to the environment to which youth reacted negatively related to the stages of man's progress. First, pure science had encompassed new realms of abstract symbolic concepts and mathematical equations. Secondly, technology had translated symbols and equations into practical tools and machines. Thirdly, production schedules had followed the design of the machines needed to manufacture given items in volume. Fourthly, the marketing of products had provided society with new instruments and facilities for undertaking new assignments. Fifthly, the numerous uses made of finished goods contributed to the development of new patterns of public behaviour, leading to radical social changes and the decay of traditional institutions. It was at the sixth stage that Governments were called upon to intervene to create training opportunities, support development programmes and provide relief services.

19. Young people in the developed countries were faced with the vast and complex combination of so many forces and trends that it was natural for them to ask the third question: what was it possible to become in the oppressive environment of a mass society requiring mass production made possible by a dehumanizing process? Youth demanded something more than the surrender of its identity to the system: it was demanding new goals regardless of the means employed to reach them. It was not easy to tell youth that what they could become depended largely on what they could do to strike a balance between mass production and the humanizing of man's work. They would have to bring new decision-making and problem-solving techniques to bear upon the human and social disorders of their time. That involved foresight and the ability to anticipate the consequences of decisions made—a new dimension in accounting that took into consideration the social cost of human dislocation and the need for training in new skills to prepare for placement before idleness was forced upon the labour force.

20. As was apparent from the statement submitted by the International Student Movement for the United Nations (E/C.2/687), young people knew that such an undertaking was possible only with their genuine participation; they expressed their fears of unemployment; and they reminded their leaders that their needs must be treated as part of the general needs of any society.

21. The fact that the voice of the young was echoed by the suffering, silent masses emphasized the urgent need for the social improvements implicit in all the regional economic commissions' reports. The developed nations could not dismiss or evade the urgent demand for answers to the most fundamental question of the time: what was it possible for men to become as human beings? However, the issues to which he had referred were not at present the primary concern of youth in the developing countries. It demanded opportunities to know, to be trained and to do rewarding work that would provide a decent living. There was a tendency in the developed countries to look upon the newly developing nations as the source of the world's most critical human problems. With the ability to know and to do, which the advanced industrial countries had supplied, it should be less difficult for the developing peoples to achieve reasonable economic growth than it was for the prosperous nations to regain a sense of individual worth and personal fulfilment.

22. It ill-behoved the leaders on either side of the dividing line between plenty and scarcity to pose as paragons of wisdom when the total result of their limited insight and conflicts could add up to collective disaster. There were no easy answers to the questions asked by youth. What youth did in the next decade or so could well determine the course of mankind for generations to come. Perhaps more depended on the attitudes and approach of the older generation to youth than was generally realized.

23. It was not years that separated the generations of the present time but ideals, values and hope. At times it seemed that the abusive language and rebelliousness of young people shook the composure of the older generation not because they violated accepted standards of good behaviour but because their frankness and penetrating inquiries made the older generation feel that it could be wrong. He was not condoning the short-sighted and explosive reaction of youth; his concern was for the older generation which must be fair before action was taken to be firm. Fairness would lessen the need for firmness, but firmness without fairness would set the stage for violence.

24. There was a tendency, when speaking of youth, to lay the emphasis on young men, but young women must be given equal consideration and the assurance of opportunities for advancement. To do otherwise would weaken society and endanger the unity of the family and the stability of the home.

25. The downgrading of youth and public pronouncements intended to "put them in their place" could serve no

useful purpose. Life itself would teach young people the truths which the older generation need not presume to teach them. They would learn that the clear definition of a deserving cause was more important than tumultuous rebellion; that to open a path through the maze of contemporary social maladjustments was far more difficult than to seize a university building; and that negative acts were not enough to reverse unfavourable trends.

26. There was no single standard, plan or programme applicable to all the situations involving youth. For any proposal for economic and social development to be effective, the knowledge and tools selected must be applicable to the situation in question. Useful technical training by specialized agencies and vocational guidance for young people isolated from centres of opportunity became increasingly important.

27. The establishment of priorities, the allocation of resources, both human and material, and sustained incentives to self-improvement were guidelines of vital importance and constituted a practical foundation upon which to build the more advanced economic and social programmes.

28. It was essential to create opportunities that would make youth join in the fellowship of common purposes. In that connexion, he referred to a statement in the report to the Council of the Commission on Human Rights on its twenty-fifth session to the effect that "young people refused to be satisfied with theoretical and verbal solutions and demanded concrete action" (see E/4621, para. 506).

29. The expression "generation gap" had become a convenient phrase to describe the separation of youth from their elders, but one of the serious handicaps of the present time was the inability to define or to bridge a really critical gap—the moral gap. Until the reality and implications of the moral gap were faced, it would not be possible to close other gaps such as those existing between the developed and the developing nations, between the countries of the north and those of the south, and between rich and poor peoples.

30. While his delegation was gratified by the Secretary-General's reports on the activities being undertaken, it recommended consideration of the following action: that Member States should be encouraged to include at least one young person in their delegations to the General Assembly; that the Secretary-General should be encouraged to recruit promising young people for the work of the United Nations and specialized agencies; that a prominent place should be given in the planning of the Second Development Decade to the important role of youth; and that the Council should be encouraged to monitor implementation of the comprehensive preliminary report of the Commission for Social Development on long-term policies and programmes for youth in national development.¹

31. Mr. ARVESEN (Norway) observed that the initiative taken by the Swedish delegation at the forty-fifth session of

the Council² to focus more attention on youth and on the great potential contribution it could make to constructive international activities had led to the adoption of two resolutions by the Council (resolutions 1353 (XLV) and 1354 (XLV)). The Secretary-General's note on programmes of international action relating to youth was truly a progress report, since it showed that the activities in that important field had gained momentum over the past year.

32. Referring to the Secretary-General's remarks concerning the possibility of forming an international corps of volunteers for development, he recalled that the Council had already dealt with the matter under item 8 (c). His delegation had been pleased to co-sponsor draft resolution E/1269/Rev.1 adopted by the Council at its 1625th meeting. It also agreed with the Secretary-General's statement in paragraph 4 of his note that, while the utilization of volunteers was not exclusively a youth matter, it was one which related very closely to the participation of young people in international technical co-operation and in particular in the programmes to be included in the Second United Nations Development Decade.

33. He recalled that, in resolution 1407 (XLVI) the Council requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the specialized agencies, to prepare as soon as possible an analytical study in depth of the world social situation of youth, describing the needs and aspirations of youth and the most effective methods of meeting them. With regard to the study, what was most required at present was to give due attention to the various legitimate needs of young people in the different parts of the world and to their fundamental human rights. The time had come for the international community to regard youth less in terms of actual and potential problems which had to be resolved and more in terms of valuable human resources which must be allowed to play their full part in the advancement of mankind. His delegation hoped that the study would not be too voluminous and considered that no further action by the Council in the form of resolutions was required.

34. Finally, his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's remarks in paragraph 19 of his note concerning the progress made during the past year both in relation to the co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and the agencies and with regard to the strengthening of practical field operations.

35. Mr. ABE (Japan) also welcomed the statement in paragraph 19 of the note by the Secretary-General, but he was not convinced that the present degree of co-ordination was adequate. For example, the International Labour Conference had decided, at its fifty-third session, to undertake research programmes on youth employment and the participation of youth in national development and in training schemes for development purposes. Again, in response to the same problems, UNESCO had recently decided to prepare a long-term expanded youth programme

¹ E/CN.5/434 and Corr.1.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fifth Session*, 1539th meeting.

aimed at undertaking a series of studies and projects which would help young people to resolve their own problems and would associate them with national development. There was clearly a close relationship, and possibly some overlap, between those two sets of activities and careful co-ordination would be required. FAO was undertaking a programme, as part of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, aimed at associating youth directly with international development through information and education programmes, action projects and civic involvement. Moreover, if maximum effectiveness in resolving the problems of youth was to be achieved, increased attention must be paid to co-ordination, which should aim not merely at obtaining maximum benefits at minimum cost but also at improving quality. Each of the agencies concerned, in conjunction with the others and bearing in mind their ultimate common objective of solving the youth problem, should concentrate on meaningful improvements in their own activities. He would welcome any information on co-ordination among the specific areas of activity to which he had referred.

36. There was also a need for some modification of the basic approach to youth problems. The field programmes and technical assistance of the various agencies concerned were no doubt valuable and should be strengthened but, unless an effort was made to identify the real causes of the problems, all such activities might prove sterile. In spite of the knowledge and experience accumulated, there might still exist some causes which had not been investigated. He therefore attached great importance to the recommendation of the International Conference on Human Rights, held in Teheran in 1968, emphasizing the need for detailed examination and study of the question of the education of youth all over the world for the development of its personality and strengthening of its respect for the rights of man and fundamental freedoms.³

37. Valuable work was also being done by the Commission for Social Development, as reported in its preliminary report on long-term policies and programmes, and by UNESCO, as described in its "Report on Youth".⁴ He stressed the importance of the analytical study of the world social situation with regard to youth, of the needs and aspirations of youth and of the most effective methods of meeting them, to be undertaken as part of the new five-year work programme of the Commission for Social Development. In view of the serious nature of the problems relating to youth, the United Nations organs concerned should be mobilized to analyse the basic causes and to find appropriate remedies, for which purpose there must be full collaboration and co-ordination between all organs of the United Nations system and other international organizations concerned. His delegation hoped that the Secretary-General would continue to review the situation periodically and to report to the Council.

38. Mr. KRISHNAN (India) said that the Secretary-General's note was a good survey of the way in which the

United Nations family had been increasingly directing its activities towards meeting the needs of the world's youth. Young people were a dynamic force for social and economic change because of their idealism, enthusiasm, energy and deep involvement in vital current issues. It was important to take especial account, in plans for economic and social development, of the needs and aspirations of youth and the valuable contribution they could make.

39. He was glad to learn from paragraphs 16 to 19 of the Secretary-General's note that progress had been made in the further co-ordination of United Nations activities and in strengthening practical field operations. He drew attention, however, to the remarks made at the second part of the third session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination to the effect that more information was needed on ACC's arrangements for inter-agency co-operation. He felt that the Secretary-General's note should be regarded as an interim document in view of the further examination which the whole matter was shortly to be given, in particular the report by UNESCO requested by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 20 (XXV), and the study of the world social situation of youth which the Council at its forty-sixth session had requested the Secretary-General to prepare (resolution 1407 (XLVI)).

40. He thanked the Director of the United Nations Division of Social Affairs for her valuable statement (1630th meeting) which, together with the Council's discussion, would provide useful guidelines for future action.

41. Mrs. MIRONOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in recent years increasing attention had been paid within the United Nations system to the participation of youth in economic and social development, exemplified by the 1965 Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples (General Assembly resolution 2037 (XX)), stressing the importance of educating young people in a spirit of peace, justice, liberty and mutual respect and understanding. The Declaration also proclaimed the importance of making youth aware of its future responsibilities, noted the need for education and attached special importance to youth organizations.

42. The Soviet Union, which had always recognized the importance of the problems of youth and ensured the active participation of the younger generation in social and economic development, co-operated actively with many countries, both bilaterally and multilaterally. It had supported all action taken in the United Nations in connexion with youth problems and, at the Council's thirty-ninth session, had sponsored resolution 1086 J (XXXIX) dealing with youth and national development. It had also supported all other General Assembly and Council resolutions dealing with youth and noted with satisfaction that the new work programme for the Commission for Social Development had a special section dealing with the participation of youth in national development.

43. The preliminary report of the Commission for Social Development on long-term policies and programmes for

³ See *Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XIV.2), resolution XX.

⁴ UNESCO document 15C/65 rev.

youth in national development suffered from a number of shortcomings. It paid too much attention to the situation of youth in the developing countries; the argument that the need there was more pronounced and that more young people lived in such areas (E/CN.5/434 and Corr.1, para. 9) was unconvincing. The problems of youth in the developed capitalist countries were very acute and must not be ignored, and it was precisely those problems which the report either omitted or distorted. For example, the responsibility for unemployment among the young people of those countries was attributed to the young people themselves, and no mention was made of class barriers in the education system. The report also omitted to mention the serious shortcomings in the nutrition and health care of young people and distorted the real reasons for the disturbances among young people in a number of capitalist countries by referring to their unadaptability.

44. The report also failed to recommend ways and means of resolving the problems of youth. The authors emphasized that the youth sector need not be given the same importance as wider social objectives, which would distort the total plan (*ibid.*, para. 94). But some international organizations were already dealing with problems related to the employment of young people. The ILO had adopted ten conventions and four recommendations dealing with the minimum age for various types of employment, many of which required revision and which had been ratified by only a minority of the ILO membership.

45. One of the social problems directly affecting young people was education, which was dealt with by UNESCO at the international level. The Soviet Union was very active in UNESCO and had initiated the discussion of such matters as the democratization of education and the problem of equal access by young people to education at all levels. Of particular importance in that connexion was the Convention against Discrimination in Education, adopted by UNESCO in 1960 on the initiative of the Soviet Union. By 1968 that Convention had been ratified by only forty States, including all the socialist countries.

46. The debate in the Council had stressed the complexity and urgency of the problems of youth, and her delegation believed that the time was ripe for the adoption of a declaration proclaiming the rights of youth to full participation in political, economic, social and other activities at both the national and international level. The Secretary-General could invite the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Human Rights and the agencies concerned to collaborate in drafting such a declaration, which could be adopted at a regular session of the General Assembly.

47. Mr. ALI (International Labour Organisation), referring to the discussion on special youth employment and training schemes for development purposes at the fifty-third session of the International Labour Conference in June 1969, said that the conclusions reached would be submitted for further examination by the fifty-fourth session of the Conference in 1970 with a view to the

adoption of an international labour recommendation on the subject.

48. The standards being formulated were intended to cover special schemes which would enable young persons to take part in activities for the economic and social development of their countries and to acquire education, skills and experience which would facilitate their subsequent economic development on a lasting basis and promote their participation in society. Special schemes were planned to meet requirements in respect of youth employment and training not yet covered by existing national educational or vocational training programmes or by normal opportunities on the labour market. The ILO's other activities in that general field included cost/benefit analyses of special youth schemes, further research, and a meeting of consultants on the management aspect of the schemes, to be operated in 1971, for examining management aspects of special youth employment and training programmes. At its 177th session the ILO Governing Body would consider including, in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the International Labour Conference, an item dealing with the employment of youth.

49. While vocational training continued to be a dominant feature of the ILO's technical co-operation activities, a recent important development had been action relating to pre-vocational training activities for early school-leavers. Two meetings had been held, one in Tunisia to review African and Asian experience in pre-vocational training, the second in Geneva to discuss the programming, content and organization of pre-vocational training activities. Pre-vocational training, realistically planned in terms of local needs and employment outlets, could provide the basic elements of initiation in the simple knowledge and skills which would give young people some basis for their future working lives. In some cases it could be a means of keeping the doors open for early school-leavers to proceed to other forms of educational training.

50. The ILO had participated in the fifth Inter-agency Meeting on Youth, held in Rome in July 1969; the agreements reached at that meeting would have an important effect not only on the further development of technical co-operation activities relating to youth but also in the promotion of inter-agency action. The Director-General of the International Labour Office had recently spoken to the Council (1613th meeting) of the world employment programme which would form the ILO's major contribution to the Second Development Decade. It was noteworthy that, given the age composition of the population of the developing countries, the world employment programme was essentially a programme for youth.

51. Mrs. HENRION-ERNST (Belgium) said that programmes for international action concerning youth had two objectives which were interrelated: the physical, intellectual, moral and material well-being of young people throughout the world, and the participation of youth in the spiritual and material progress of mankind. The organiz-

ations within the United Nations system had contributed extensively to the great progress achieved in health, education and the vocational training of children and adolescents.

52. The preliminary report on long-term policies and programmes for youth in national development of the Commission for Social Development used the term "youth" to refer to young people between the ages of 12 and 25; the definition was a satisfactory one, and it was to that age group that her remarks would apply.

53. The problems of youth could not be defined simply in terms of age; they varied depending on whether those concerned lived in the town or the country, on their degree of education and social status and on their nation's level of development. Youth nevertheless constituted a social group which distinguished itself from adults by its different reaction to the changes taking place in the world.

54. The change in family structure, the progressive breakdown of traditional communities, scientific and technological development, urbanization and improving communications all gave rise to conflicts. The generation gap had consequently become more acutely felt.

55. The impatience of young people, their rejection of traditional values and their desire for responsible participation were partly explained by the rapid evolution of society. However, the basic cause for the conflict between generations was the need of the young to be heeded by the older generation and to be recognized as individuals, which expressed itself in a desire for participation. The conflict between generations could therefore be beneficial to the development of society as a whole.

56. The young people of modern times had grown up in a world without cultural frontiers and had thereby gained deeper international understanding than the older generation, with the result that a policy of real international solidarity was now conceivable. Young people, who constituted more than half the population of the developing countries, were demanding peace and social justice with greater emphasis than ever before. It should not be forgotten that many of them would shortly be in a position to work for the success, or bear the responsibility for the failure, of the Second Development Decade. One consequence of the international culture of young people was their rejection of racial segregation and other forms of discrimination. The new spirit which they manifested should be encouraged by international organizations; in organizing their studies, developing their programmes and projects and conducting their activities, the United Nations and the specialized agencies should take the aspirations of youth into account by encouraging international understanding among young people, educating them to respect human rights and ensuring that they were associated with adults in all fields and at all levels of national and international life.

57. International understanding for human rights and respect for fundamental freedoms could be brought home

to children at a very early age, and that spirit should prevail throughout their upbringing. UNESCO had always been conscious of that aspect of its activities. International understanding was the best introduction to co-operation for development, and in particular to technical assistance. Some 800 young Belgians were assisting experts in a number of developing countries, but it should not be forgotten that such activity could be of real value only if they possessed understanding of those whom it was their responsibility to educate or train.

58. Two recent General Assembly resolutions (resolutions 2445 (XXIII) and 2447 (XXIII)) stressed the need for educating young people in respect for human rights, and resolution 2445 (XXIII) requested Member States to provide school courses dealing with the purposes and activities of the United Nations and with human rights. Her delegation believed that such programmes should be stepped up, taking into account the desire of young people to take part in the organization of a society in which they could fulfil themselves. Measures which could be recommended to Member States in that connexion included lowering the age for voting and of eligibility for public office. As a first stage in that process, Belgium had fixed the age for voters in commune council elections at eighteen. In industry, young people should be included in boards of management, trade union delegations and labour and health inspection commissions. In schools, pupils' committees with real responsibility should be established, while students should be allowed to participate in the preparation of curricula and in devising methods of instruction, and should participate in university administration. Finally, young people of developing countries with the required training should be directly associated with the formulation and implementation of national and international development plans. As stated in paragraph 233 of document E/CN.5/434 and Corr.1, what was being done or not being done for youth, with youth and by youth was perhaps the most important criterion of the effectiveness of sectoral and cross-sectoral planning and programming.

59. The Secretary-General's note showed that in the past year considerable progress had been made and that better co-ordination of activities within the United Nations system had been obtained. General Assembly resolution 2447 (XXIII) requested the Secretary-General to organize seminars with the participation of persons specially qualified in subjects of particular concern to youth, including youth leaders. Her delegation hoped that they would be held as soon as possible and that as many youth organizations as possible would be invited. The results would aid the Council in its future activities relating to youth, with the result that the United Nations might indeed become, for the young people of the world, a revolutionary instrument in the search for world-wide co-operation.

60. Mr. DELEON (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the General Conference of UNESCO at its fifteenth session had approved a new youth programme. It was difficult in an organization concerned with education to distinguish what represented a

programme for youth and what did not; the majority of UNESCO's educational programmes were in fact focused on youth. The new programme was designed to be a programme for and incorporating youth, the principles of which had been developed in 1968 by the Director-General in a report already quoted. The new programme included the more active participation of young people in resolving the economic and social problems of society and in the management of educational policy and would be developed in 1970 within the context of International Education Year.

61. Studies under the new youth programme would be carried out to ascertain whether there were certain common denominators in international youth phenomena or whether there were national divergencies. First of all, the problems would be identified and a large number of young people would be engaged in studies at the local level in various countries. Secondly, there would be studies on the participation of youth in the administration of educational institutions at the secondary and university level. Thirdly, the participation of young people in development would be examined. Fourthly, out-of-school activities would be discussed; in that connexion he drew attention to the programme on that subject, initiated by UNESCO, which was to be carried out in six countries. Fifthly, meetings for the exchange of ideas between young people and between them and adults would be organized; two such meetings on problems of university reform and student participation in university government had been held in the past year. Lastly, emphasis would be placed on associating young people with UNESCO. As examples, it was noteworthy that the delegations to the fifteenth session of the General Conference had included many young people, and in the summer of 1969 a number of students had been offered the opportunity of working for UNESCO for a short period with modest remuneration.

62. Mr. JACQUET (United Towns Organization), speaking at the invitation of the President, drew attention to the valuable work of his organization in connexion with youth and development. In a world divided by race, languages, different interests, and ideologies, town twinning was one of the best ways of establishing direct relations between peoples; it appealed to youth because it was a practical activity, giving them new reasons for life and hope, and the opportunity to work for others in a spirit of fraternity. When twinning took place between two or three towns in industrialized countries with a town in a developing country, a twinning committee including young people and representing the entire population was established. When regular exchanges began following a twinning, young people were particularly concerned in school exchanges, vocational training, training periods, and visits.

63. The phase of pilot twinings was now completed and his organization was proceeding to a first series of 100 twinings as part of the programme for the Second Development Decade. Each twinning would be financed through voluntary contributions from the populations concerned, the support of local authorities, government

subsidies and UNDP. His organization needed external aid, and he requested the United Nations to help by financially supporting the recently established Cities United for Peace and Development Fund, by assigning two experts to the organization for a period to be determined, and by facilitating the organization's future efforts.

64. Mr. GUELEV (Bulgaria) drew attention to certain theories which had circulated in recent years according to which the revolt of young people against war, social injustice and reactionary forces could be explained by the eternal conflict of the generations. Such theories were very convenient for those who wished to camouflage the real reason which was that youth did not desire to take part in wars of aggression for the benefit of armaments manufacturers. Youth wanted peace and a better life and it was the duty of the United Nations to help.

65. In Bulgaria, youth had always played an important role. Young people had been in the forefront of the fight against fascism. They had also been in the front ranks in the fight against under-development during Bulgaria's twenty-five years of socialist construction: in 1947, more than 200,000 young people had worked for over one month to build roads, railways and factories. Many educational opportunities were open to youth in Bulgaria: education was free at all levels and more than one-third of university students received State grants. Young people were drawn in large numbers towards technical studies and Bulgaria had therefore established larger numbers of technical schools.

66. One important aspect of the youth problem was unemployment; there was a tendency in some countries to regard youth as a menace to society and not to look for the real reasons for delinquency.

67. The Bulgarian Constitution gave full political rights to all persons from eighteen years of age, and young people actively participated in the legislative institutions. An important part was played in education by youth organizations and he felt that the views of international youth organizations should be heard when discussing problems concerning young people. He urged the Council to grant consultative status to the World Federation of Democratic Youth and to the International Union of Students, which together represented a very large number of youth organizations throughout the world.

68. Bulgaria had ratified all international conventions dealing with youth, including the conventions prepared by the United Nations specialized agencies, and the basic principles of those conventions had been incorporated into its legislation. He felt, however, that a large number of those conventions, particularly those within the purview of the ILO, should be reviewed; it was difficult to believe that a convention dating back to 1921 could meet the needs and requirements of modern life. The United Nations should prepare a document dealing with all aspects of youth problems for adoption by the General Assembly. He

supported the USSR representative's proposal which could further the work of the United Nations in that area.

69. Mr. BOYCE (United Kingdom), speaking as a member of the younger generation since he was under twenty-five, said that it was dangerous to think of youth as an abstraction. Furthermore, young people in the United Kingdom and in the developing country where he had worked as a volunteer had little desire to be "programmed". He agreed with the Jamaican representative's views in that connexion (1630th meeting) and welcomed paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's note referring to UNESCO's stress on projects to help young people to resolve their problems.

70. He suggested that the Council should take note of the Secretary-General's note and reminded members that an important resolution had already been adopted concerning volunteers (resolution 1444 (XLVII)).

71. Mr. McDONALD (United States of America) proposed that the discussion on the item should be left open as several delegations were considering the preparation of a draft resolution.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Second United Nations Development Decade

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE (E/4736)

72. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on agenda item 3 (E/4736) and to vote on the draft resolution in paragraph 6 of the report.

73. Mr. ASTAFIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had abstained from voting on the draft resolution in the Economic Committee and would do likewise in the Council. If a separate vote had been taken on each paragraph, his delegation would have voted against the first and third preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 6.

74. The PRESIDENT put to the vote the draft resolution in paragraph 6 of the report of the Economic Committee (E/4736).

The draft resolution was adopted by 19 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.