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OFFICIAL RECORDS

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President: Mr. Raymond SCHEYVEN (Belgium).

AGENDA ITEM 16

Report of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (E/4622 and Add.1)

1. The PRESIDENT said that, not only as President of the forty-sixth session of the Council but also in his capacity as member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute and as a member of a Government which contributed to the financing of the Institute's activities, he was particularly pleased to welcome Mr. Adebo, the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). He noted that Mr. Perez Guerrero of Venezuela, who had preceded him as President, was also a member of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR.

2. Mr. ADEBO (Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research) said that the impressions which he had shared with the Council at its previous session^{1/} when he had just assumed his duties, had been confirmed. The paper on training policy, which had been in preparation at the time of the last session of the Economic and Social Council, had been submitted to the Board of Trustees at its meeting in September 1968 and the latter had approved all the recommendations it contained.^{2/} Future training programmes would be prepared on the basis of those guidelines. Since the last session of the Council, he had recruited a Director of Training who, apart from possessing considerable experience, had the advantage of being still young and very dynamic. UNITAR was making an effort to improve the quality of its training programmes, which were identical as to content with those of the previous year but were being organized in different countries. The training programmes in the field of technical assistance, directed by an extremely competent person, were organized on a national basis and continued to be fully satisfactory. The Institute's activities in the field of international law were organized in close collaboration with UNESCO and with the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. In the field of diplomacy, UNITAR had organized a second seminar in international organizations and multilateral diplomacy, intended for senior diplomats and international officials (see E/4622, paras. 14-19). Although those programmes had been

^{1/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fifth Session, 1542nd meeting.

^{2/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, agenda item 43, document A/7263, Annex II.

successful, the Institute conducted a critical examination of its activities each year in an effort to improve their quality still further. The Institute had also arranged two training courses for new recruits and junior officers of the foreign services. One of those courses, intended for French-speaking staff, had already taken place at Dakar in January 1969. The other would be for English-speaking officials and would be held at Makarere in Uganda. All those who had attended the Dakar course had been able to spend a term of several weeks in the diplomatic services of various countries, and the Institute hoped to be able to offer the same opportunity to those attending the course at Makarere.

3. The Research Department, whose activities had made great strides, was currently processing a number of studies for publication. The study on criteria and methods of evaluation would be published shortly (*ibid.*, para. 42); it was a study on criteria and methodology which had been carried out with the greatest care in consultation with many persons possessing experience of related operational activities. The study of the problem of very small States and Territories would also be published shortly (*ibid.*, para. 43), as would the study on the wider acceptance of multilateral treaties (*ibid.*, para. 44). The study of the brain drain (*ibid.*, para. 49-50) and that on the transfer of technology (*ibid.*, para. 51) would be published later. These two studies were being conducted in close co-operation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Institute had, however, provided the Secretary-General with material on the topics dealt with in the studies at the time of the discussion of those topics in the twenty-third session of the General Assembly.^{3/} The seminar in international law which had been held at Quito, Ecuador, in January 1969, for the Latin American countries should be classed among research activities, since it had provided an opportunity for an exchange of views between highly competent persons from sixteen countries of the region and experts designated by UNITAR, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, UNESCO and various inter-governmental organizations (*ibid.*, paras. 30-31.) In view of the general public interest in the problems dealt with—and in particular the question of multinational public enterprises, in which certain specialized agencies and university circles had shown great interest—the Institute had decided, in spite of the limited resources available to it, to publish a report on the seminar, containing the documentation on multinational enterprises. Full publication would be in Spanish in the first place, and would be followed by abridged versions in the two working languages of UNITAR.

4. Proper co-ordination of the activities of UNITAR with those of the various United Nations bodies was

^{3/} See *ibid.*, Twenty-third Session, Second Committee, 1204th, 1205th and 1216th meetings.

essential. For his part, he participated in the meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and held frequent consultations with the relevant units of the Secretariat, and in particular the Department of Economic and Social Affairs since a great deal of UNITAR research was of interest to that Department in order to avoid any overlapping or duplication. Each year the executive heads of all the institutes within the United Nations system held a meeting for the purpose not only of co-ordinating the plans and activities of their institutes but also of deciding on a common line of action which would enhance the efficiency of their work. At the next meeting, which was to take place at Geneva in July 1969, each institute was to submit a report on its training activities, and he hoped that new and constructive methods and ideas would emerge from that meeting. The Institute had maintained a close relationship with Mr. Lester Pearson. Also, Sir Robert Jackson, who was in charge of the Capacity Study of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), had consulted the Institute on numerous occasions, and the results of his work would be of the greatest interest to UNITAR. Whenever the Institute contemplated undertaking a programme which might impinge on the activity of any other organs, it got in touch with them, and some of its programmes were carried out in partnership with other agencies.

5. If the Institute was to accomplish the tasks entrusted to it in a satisfactory manner, it must have increased financial resources; otherwise, it would be obliged to reduce certain of its programmes. During the first years of the Institute's existence, the activities of the Research Department had got under way rapidly. The same had not been true of the Training Department's activities, but that Department now had the necessary staff and had made an excellent start. One sector of activities should not be developed at the expense of the other, and he hoped to obtain increased resources in order to allow the Training Department to expand without detriment to the good work of the Research Department. UNITAR hoped to be able to expand its activities outside the United States; it might in due course set up regional offices in Asia, Africa and Latin America. It already had an office at Geneva. He had recently held further consultations with representatives of the various regional groups and with the delegations of Member States in an effort to obtain more funds. He appealed to the countries already participating in the financing of the Institute's budget to increase their contribution, and he appealed to the other States to consider making a contribution. He had just addressed a letter to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of all Member States and of States not Members of the United Nations which were contributing to the financing of the Institute's activities. He had informed all the countries concerned that it had been necessary to reduce the Institute's budget for the current year because of lack of financial resources, and that if the Institute did not receive more funds, it would have to curtail its activities still further. The Secretary-General had estimated that the total contributions for activities over a five-year period would be between \$5 and \$10 million. In the present state of affairs, it appeared that not even the figure of \$5 million would be reached. For the next five years, the Institute would need \$2 million a year, a

budget which was a modest one in comparison with the sums spent on other causes and one fully justified by the importance of the aims being pursued by UNITAR.

6. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) said he was pleased that the Executive Director of the Institute was co-operating with all the other bodies working in the same field, and he emphasized the value of such activities as the Dag Hammarskjold Seminar, the programme organized by the Quakers for young diplomats, and the work of the Carnegie Endowment. The very pertinent questions which had been raised by the participants in some of the seminars which he had attended bore witness to the value of the training they had received. It would be desirable for the Institute to expand the scope of its activities and to organize more highly specialized courses for the training of experts.

7. With regard to research, the Institute had undertaken some very significant activities. Among them were studies of the effectiveness of United Nations activities, and more specifically of methods for evaluating those activities. In addition, research was being conducted on the acceptance of treaties. That was an activity which met a definite need, for many United Nations declarations and treaties remained a dead letter because too many countries, including, in many cases, the major Powers, had not accepted them, and nothing was more detrimental to the work of the United Nations. Research on the "brain-drain", the transfer of technology and the problem of very small States fell into another category. The draft report on the problems of very small States had come to his attention, and it was, in his view, an example of the way in which such studies should be carried out. The Institute's activities might also encourage universities and other national bodies to undertake studies in areas of interest to the United Nations.

8. In view of the limited budget at its disposal, the Institute must avoid two pitfalls—first, it must not resign itself to making the best of the resources it had, for in that case it would certainly not receive higher contributions, and, secondly, it must not spread its meagre resources too thin. It must press boldly ahead, and if it proved to be sufficiently dynamic and achieved worth-while results, the grants were bound to increase. The Government of Norway, for its part, had contributed a sum 30 per cent greater than its contribution for the previous year. It had also helped to finance a number of fellowship programmes. He hoped that countries with larger financial resources would increase their contributions in the same proportion.

9. Mr. DANIELI (United Republic of Tanzania), noting that paragraph 25 of the report (E/4622 and Add.1) stated that the expenses incurred in the USSR in connexion with the Seminar on Major Problems of Technical and Financial Co-operation would be financed by the rouble portion of the USSR contribution to UNITAR, asked why UNDP was not financing the whole cost of the Seminar itself.

10. With regard to the comparative study of measures against racial discrimination he noted that reference was made in paragraph 48 of the above-mentioned report to country studies. He would like to know how those studies were undertaken, and also how the Institute determined its priorities and decided on the criteria governing its activities.

11. Mr. DIALLO (Upper Volta), referring to the training activities of UNITAR, in which the developing countries were primarily interested, said that his delegation had been gratified to note the efforts being made by UNITAR in the direction of decentralization and regionalization. He hoped that such decentralization would continue in order that as many countries as possible might benefit from UNITAR training programmes, and that the resources available might have the maximum impact. With regard to finance, his country would endeavour to respond to the Institute's appeals.

12. Mr. SKATARETIKO (Yugoslavia) said the report (E/14622 and Add.) revealed that UNITAR was undertaking a wide range of activities, and he felt that the Institute could also help in the formulation of the international development strategy.

13. His delegation welcomed the Institute's decision to regionalize its training programmes, thus reducing expenditure and making for wider participation, more homogeneous representation and higher performance. UNITAR should give highest priority to the training and upgrading of personnel in the developing countries in view of the significance of the human factor in the realization of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

14. UNITAR also had an increasingly important role to play as the co-ordinator of training programmes undertaken by various institutes and organizations within and outside the United Nations system.

15. With regard to research, a field in which UNITAR had achieved significant results, his delegation believed that the Institute's financial limitations dictated a selective approach to research projects. UNITAR should therefore concentrate on projects and problems of top priority for the developing countries or on those connected with the preparations for the Second Development Decade.

16. UNITAR could do much to solve development problems, but the success of its future activities was dependent on the assistance it received from national and international organizations. Yugoslavia had supported UNITAR from the outset and would endeavour to increase its financial contribution to the Institute.

17. Mr. OLDS (United States of America) observed that UNITAR was facing the same problem as most educational and research institutes—too much work and too little money. Furthermore, while it might be easy to make spectacular investments, it was difficult to develop skills. If UNITAR was to be objective, it should be financially independent. There was no question that the Institute's activities with regard to training personnel in the developing countries was of the utmost importance, and the United States Government was extremely interested in the problems under study by the Institute ("brain drain", criteria and methods of evaluation).

18. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that the guidelines set forth in paragraphs 5 to 9 of the Institute's report (E/4622 and Add.) were extremely sensible, particularly the proposals made in paragraph 8 (b), (d) and (f). He was pleased to note that the Institute was decentralizing and regionalizing its training programmes. His delegation was following the Insti-

tute's research activities with keen interest. It had taken note of the request for funds and would transmit it to its Government.

19. Mr. DECASTIAUX (Belgium) said that Belgium had always taken an active interest in UNITAR. Its contribution (\$250,000 a year), which would be increased by \$50,000, was the fifth largest of all national contributions.

20. He was pleased to note that the guidelines for the Institute's training policy (see E/4622, para. 8) were realistic, and also that the report expressed a desire for economy and efficiency. Training activities in technical assistance (*ibid.*, paras. 23-29) should be continued and expanded. In view of the complexity of the United Nations technical co-operation machinery, more courses should be organized for the government officers in the developing countries who dealt with co-ordination of the technical assistance requested and received by their Governments.

21. While he was pleased to note that UNITAR was regionalizing its training activities, he doubted the value of the colloquium for senior officials in the United Nations system (*ibid.*, para. 33). The number of inter-agency meetings was already considerable, and there was no reason why it should be unduly increased.

22. He hoped that the studies on the transfer of technology from enterprise to enterprise (*ibid.*, para. 51) were being carried out in liaison with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). With regard to the special advisory panels mentioned in paragraph 60, he would like to know what the research on the implications of developments in science and technology consisted of. In the matter of co-operation within the United Nations system, he wished for information concerning the scope of the UNITAR studies on the programming of United Nations development assistance (*ibid.*, para. 68). He also wondered whether UNITAR was co-operating with institutions outside the United Nations system.

23. Finally, he expressed regret that his suggestion concerning a change in the French name of UNITAR had not been followed in some of the documents.

24. Mr. CREMIN (Ireland) said that his country would endeavour to respond to the appeals for funds made by the Executive Director of UNITAR. He had been pleased to learn that UNITAR was doing its best to avoid duplication and had established contact with the Pearson mission. The importance of training programmes from the standpoint of the developing countries had been stressed on many occasions. Ireland suffered from the "brain drain", just as did the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Turning to the report on UNITAR activities submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session,^{4/} he expressed support for the recommendation contained in paragraph 22 (d) of that report, concerning the necessity of avoiding duplication in the field of training. Of the research projects described in annex IV of the report, those to which he attached particular importance were project 8 (planning-programming-budgeting systems), project 10 (new techniques and methods of training) and, among the research pro-

^{4/} See *ibid.*, Twenty-third session, agenda item 43, document A/7263.

grammes to be started in 1969, project 11 (programming United Nations development assistance), project 12 (instrumentalities and procedures for settlement of disputes) and project 13 (enforcement of international obligations).

25. Mr. DEJAMMET (France) said that he agreed with some of Mr. Adebo's remarks concerning UNITAR's strategy. The training of international officials was the task of the organizations concerned, and UNITAR could not act unless those organizations gave their consent. UNITAR should avoid any duplication of United Nations or government activities. He gave some details concerning the part France was playing in organizing basic training courses for new recruits and junior officers of the foreign services and in training activities in technical assistance.

26. With regard to research activities, he pointed out that the report (E/4622 and Add.1) failed to mention a project which called for arranging weekend meetings in the New York area at which United Nations diplomats could discuss the problems of the Organization. He did not in any case see the value of the project in question, which did not fall into the category of either training or research and did not seem to be within the scope of UNITAR activities. Finally, he wished to say that he was looking forward to publication of the study on criteria and methods of evaluation.

27. Mr. ANANICHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the United Nations Institute for Training and Research had performed its task well. In the future, the training programme should be oriented more towards the training of cadres in the developing countries.

28. Although he attached great importance to research activities, he feared that the research programme described in the report (E/4622, paras. 42-60) might be too ambitious in view of the Institute's limited resources.

29. In his opinion, some of the studies undertaken by the Institute, such as the study on the transfer of technology, were deserving of a great deal of time and effort, whereas others, such as the legal studies and the studies on small countries and on questions of international law, were less important inasmuch as those topics were already under consideration by other United Nations bodies. Finally, if UNITAR was to succeed in its task, collaboration with some of the specialized agencies and even with national bodies was essential.

30. Mr. KHANACHET (Kuwait) said that the space exploits of the United States and the USSR pointed up the paradoxical fact that man was today setting out to conquer space but was often unable to resolve the daily problems of national development. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research was one of the bodies set up by the United Nations in order to help countries to raise the level of their technical and other knowledge. Ever since the establishment of the Institute, Kuwait had made whatever small financial contribution it could. Unfortunately, the 1967 war had forced it to reduce its contribution.

31. Despite its limited resources, the Institute had done remarkable work thanks to the energy and devotion of its Executive Director and his associates.

32. With regard to the Institute's training policy, he hoped that the classification proposed in paragraph 6 of the report (E/4622 and Add.1) did not reflect an order of priority and that even if, for practical reasons, international officials were in a better position to take advantage of the courses being offered, preference in recruitment should be given to those countries which were unable to provide such training for their foreign service officers.

33. He suggested that the Institute might consider including in its programmes symposia on international issues of concern both to the United Nations and to the international community at large. He mentioned by way of example a study undertaken by a number of United States universities on the problem of peace-keeping.

34. He noted with satisfaction that the report stressed the principle of regionalization. That was an excellent principle of proven worth which, among other things, ensured the maximum utilization of available resources.

35. In view of the financial difficulties encountered by the Institute, an attempt might be made to arrange for co-operation between UNITAR and university institutes, which could grant fellowships and undertake certain types of research. UNITAR would thus retain its autonomy and, at the same time, benefit from the knowledge which universities had to offer.

36. Mr. YUNUS (Pakistan), referring to annex V of the report (E/4622 and Add.1), which listed pledges and payments, said that the \$4,000 in the second column represented Pakistan's payment for 1967. He was pleased to announce that two other payments of \$4,000 each would be made very shortly for 1967 and 1968. That was, to be sure, a modest contribution, and he appealed to the wealthier countries to contribute more generously to the work of UNITAR. He wished to associate himself with the tribute paid to Mr. Adebo and the Institute. He was gratified at the progress made in formulating and executing programmes and supported the practical method employed in submitting recommendations to the Board of Trustees. He welcomed the efforts made towards co-operation with other bodies both within and outside the United Nations system. He also wished to stress the necessity of co-ordinating UNITAR activities with the international strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

37. He suggested that the UNITAR should provide information on the full range of its training programmes, for that would be of particular benefit to the developing countries. Like the representative of Kuwait, he felt that regionalization was an excellent principle. He welcomed the good relations which UNITAR maintained with UNDP, Sir Robert Jackson and Mr. Pearson. In his opinion, the comparative study of measures against racial discrimination (E/4622, para.48) should be made in closer co-operation with the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa. Finally, the study on the transfer of technology from enterprise to enterprise was of special interest to the developing countries, and he hoped that their needs would be taken into account in its preparation.

38. Mr. SAKSENA (India) extended his congratulations and thanks to the Institute and, more particularly, to

Mr. Adebo. He associated himself with the congratulations expressed by the previous speakers and fully supported the Institute's future programme of work.

39. Mr. ADEBO (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research), speaking on behalf of his associates and on his own behalf, thanked the members of the Council for their kind words about the Institute. Highly constructive observations and criticisms had been made. He could not reply to them all in detail, but they would all be put before the Institute's Board of Trustees for its consideration.

40. It had been asked why the cost of a seminar in the USSR was to be financed by the rouble portion of the USSR contribution to UNITAR (see E/4622, para. 25). The position was that the cost of fellowships was generally borne by UNDP when the meetings were held in a city where an office of the United Nations or of a specialized agency was located. In the case of the USSR, which did not come under this definition, Moscow had been chosen for a meeting, under a special agreement between the USSR and the Institute, on condition that part of the USSR rouble contribution would finance the fellowships.

41. With regard to the way in which the Institute organized its projects on racial discrimination, he explained that it was trying to discover the places where racial tension existed and where measures were being taken to combat it. The Institute did not intend to limit its studies to the countries mentioned in the report, but obviously it first had to secure the authorization of the Governments concerned.

42. One member of the Council had inquired how the Institute established its order of priorities for research projects. The Research Department considered all the suggestions submitted to it; it drew up a list of studies and research projects already undertaken in each of the fields in question, with a view to determining whether a further study would be justified. The views expressed in debates by the General Assembly or by the Economic and Social Council were also taken into account. It was then up to the Board of Trustees to take the final decision. Furthermore, with the aid of a grant of \$100,000 from the Ford Foundation, special advisory panels had been set up to deal with different sectors of UNITAR's research (see E/4622, para. 60). The advisory panels were working on the question of establishing an order of priority.

43. Several representatives had stressed the need to ensure co-ordination in training as well as in research. The Institute was aware of that need and he personally had recently been in contact with a Canadian development organization which was planning to set up co-ordination machinery of its own. The Institute intended to deal with the matter as soon as resources were available. The existing staff could not handle the work involved, and suitably qualified staff would have to be recruited.

44. It had been said that the Institute should give particular attention to projects which were of direct interest to the developing countries, especially within the framework of the Second United Nations Development Decade. The Institute was in fact concerning itself very actively with evaluation problems which were of prime importance for the success of the

Second Decade. It was also co-operating closely with Sir Robert Jackson, whose work on evaluation made some use of that carried out by the Institute.

45. It had been remarked that if the Institute permitted contributions to be made in national currencies, they would probably be larger. However, the reason the Board of Trustees insisted that the greatest possible portion of contributions should be paid in convertible currency was to give the Institute greater freedom of action with regard to the location of projects, seminars, etc. Moreover, the Institute's headquarters was in New York and most of the work was done there. It was therefore essential to have sufficient funds in dollars. The Board of Trustees realized that some countries could not pay their entire contribution in convertible currency, and it therefore accepted part payment in national currencies.

46. The list of categories in paragraph 6 of the report (E/4622 and Add.1) did not represent an order of priority; it had been drawn up solely for practical reasons.

47. One member of the Council had expressed misgivings about the usefulness of the colloquium for senior officials in the United Nations system. The colloquium would not overlap with other meetings; it would enable senior officials to obtain a better appreciation of each other's problems and was expected to promote a greater esprit de corps within the international civil service.

48. As to whether seminars for senior international civil servants should come under the heading of research or under that of training, it was his view that meetings of that kind, at which the participants played an active role in the consideration of important questions, were more in the sphere of research. In that connexion, the Institute felt that United Nations staff should not work in a closed environment but should profit from the experience of people from outside the United Nations. That would, for example, enable people from the diplomatic and academic worlds to draw closer in their thinking.

49. He pointed out to the Belgian representative that the Institute had already agreed at the twenty-second meeting of its Board of Trustees, on 11 September 1968, to change its French name to "Institut des Nations Unies pour la formation et la recherche" but that the decision had been too recent for the change to be reflected in all documents.

50. The project relating to the transfer of technology from enterprise to enterprise did not, as one representative feared, overlap with any studies undertaken by UNIDO or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The UNITAR project was being carried out at the enterprise level and would be extremely useful, especially for the developing countries. It had been undertaken in close co-ordination with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and with appropriate specialized agencies.

51. The Institute had been criticized for taking on certain political topics. The Institute must endeavour to help in both the political and economic fields. In that connexion, one representative had felt that the

study of the status of very small States was of no value, whereas in fact it was of interest to a great many States, particularly since there was very little documentation available on the subject. The study would be extremely valuable and would complement any others that had already been made.

52. In conclusion, he wished to assure the members of the Council that all the criticisms and observations would be brought to the attention of the Institute's Board of Trustees, which would take them fully into account. He appealed once again to the members to

support personally and collectively his appeal for more funds.

53. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council

"Takes note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (E/4622 and Add.1)".

The draft resolution was adopted.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

