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President : Mr. Foss SHANAHAN (New Zealand).

Present :

Representatives of the following States: Afghanistan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Jordan, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Observers for the following Member States: Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Netherlands, Romania, Tunisia, Yugoslavia.

Observer for a non-member State: Switzerland.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In the absence of the President, Mr. Chobanov (Bulgaria), second Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 3

World social situation (E/3489; E/CN.5/346/Rev.1, E/CN.5/346/Add.1-5, E/CN.5/357, E/CN.5/361)

GENERAL DEBATE (*concluded*)

1. Mr. BETTENCOURT BUENO (Brazil) congratulated the Secretariat on the *Report on the World Social Situation* (E/CN.5/346/Rev.1). Although it might be criticized as containing too little precise information, the *Report* nevertheless represented a serious attempt to depict the contemporary social situation.

2. The authors had concentrated on an analysis of the problem of the co-ordination of economic and social factors, a co-ordination which was indispensable if balanced development was to be achieved, but they had recognized that for the time being the ideal relationship between those factors could not be precisely defined in the absence of a common scale of values. They had stressed

the need, however, to study economic and social problems together. For the purposes of their study, they had classified countries in six groups under four indicators of comparison and had taken the view that an imbalance existed where the discrepancy between the social and economic factors was so considerable that it amounted to a two-group difference. With regard to Brazil, he would point out that table 5, on pages 48 and 49, did not seem to correspond to the ECLA statistics, which would place Brazil in group IV in respect of per caput national income and in group V in respect of the school enrolment ratio.

3. In general, his delegation considered that the *Report* adopted a purely static approach to social and economic indicators. The idea of balance was not sufficient in itself; the important thing was development, even if the principle of balance was not observed. Lastly, it should not be forgotten that in all developing countries, past and present experience showed that economic progress paved the way for social progress, whether the context of such progress was a capitalist or a socialist economy.

4. Mr. EL-FARRA (Jordan) thought it unfortunate that, owing to delay in publication, it had not been possible for the documents before the Council to be adequately considered by the Social Commission.

5. Part II of the *Report on the World Social Situation*, on the interrelation of social and economic development and the problem of "balance", raised interesting questions, attempted to give answers, but in the end put forward no proposals for a solution. Previous speakers in the debate had equally failed to suggest a solution. A reorganization of the relevant United Nations organs might possibly be an answer, but his delegation still harboured the doubts in that regard which it had expressed in the Social Commission. The authors of the *Report* and the Secretary-General had advocated a long-term approach, and that was realistic. To consider merging part of the work of the Social and Economic Committees of the Council was therefore premature. If balanced social and economic development was to be fruitful, a precise definition of the idea of balance, covering all situations, would have to be worked out; but the *Report* itself made it plain that that was impossible at the present stage. The immediate solution thus lay, not in a merger, but in parallel analyses of economic and social development, followed by a comparison of the respective results. The problem was, in fact, one of co-ordination. A complete merger of the economic and social sections of the Secretariat had been mooted in some quarters, and that suggestion might be discussed in the Social Committee. Should the final conclusion be that the main work of those sections should be kept separate, it was hard to see how the merging of the work of the Economic and Social Committees would bring about the desired balance.

6. It had been said that an appropriate relationship should be established between economic and social development; but the precise meaning of the word "appropriate" in that context was not entirely clear. The establishment of a department of technical co-operation might be one way of achieving such a relationship, if thereby the study of social development would be brought up to the level of the study of economic development. If that could not be done within the Secretariat, a functional link might have to be established between the economic and social organs of the United Nations.

7. The *Report* was open to criticism on the ground that it contained no evaluation of social development in the Arab East; that threw it out of balance. The case studies, however, were very useful and should be continued; they should not remain academic analyses, but should result in practical efforts to deal with problems common to similar areas. There was a need for training on the spot and also for regional training centres; such centres should, however, be subject to continuous review. Study should lead to planning, which should, in turn, be evaluated. Only in that way could the errors of the past be avoided.

8. His delegation endorsed the idea of holding regional workshops and seminars, because of its own experience of the social welfare studies conducted by the Social Department of the League of Arab States, to which the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs had made a worthy contribution. Several seminars had been held since 1949 and others were planned for 1961 and the years beyond.

9. More personnel was needed for social activities, and it was to be hoped that adequate help would be forthcoming for the very interesting projects outlined in the report of the Social Commission (E/3489, annex I).

10. The PRESIDENT, speaking as the representative of Bulgaria, observed that the *Report on the World Social Situation* rightly noted the difficulties inherent in determining the appropriate connexion between the economic and social factors in development. It was unfortunate, however, that the authors had not been able to offer any convincing solution to those difficulties. They had not, moreover, paid sufficient attention to the role of social factors in development. A more correct approach might have been to state that economic development was fundamental to social well-being but could not in itself achieve that well-being, since social progress depended always on the distribution of the benefits of economic development among the various sectors of the population. The passages on the distribution of wealth in the United States and in Latin America showed that the authors had realized that economic growth would not necessarily have a beneficial effect on social development where wealth remained concentrated in the hands of a minority; but that conclusion had not been explicitly stated.

11. The authors also tended to oversimplify. They even asserted that economic and social development encountered special difficulties in small countries. Yet the fact that Bulgaria was a comparatively small country had not prevented it from achieving considerable success in promoting its economic development and independence. Under existing conditions, the prospects of small coun-

tries becoming economically independent were far more promising than would appear from the *Report*.

12. A relatively small proportion of the budgets of capitalist countries was devoted to financing the acceleration of economic growth and the improvement of social conditions. A better distribution of the national income would assist both the governments and the masses. A part only of the national income could, however, be redistributed through the budget. Effective redistribution depended on the ownership of the means of production and would be impossible where a large part of a country's wealth remained in the hands of a minority of unproductive landowners. He was not suggesting that the system prevailing in Bulgaria should be imposed on other countries; but he must stress the fact that the redistribution of income after the Second World War had enabled Bulgaria to take great strides forward. Its national income was distributed more widely among the population than that of capitalist countries, and it was constructing plant and schools at the same time. He could not therefore agree with the conclusion in the *Report* that the solution lay solely in economic growth. Where production was concentrated in the hands of the State, a balance between the economic and social factors in development was achieved. No general formula could, however, be enunciated. The form of the balance would vary from country to country.

13. Special attention should be paid to social conditions in rural areas, where the level of incomes was falling still further below that obtaining in the towns. The continuing migration from rural to urban areas revealed the presence of hidden unemployment in rural areas, but the most important problem facing many under-developed countries, that of transforming small farmers and agricultural labourers into industrial workers, had not yet been solved. The serious situation in agriculture in the less developed countries unquestionably presented a threat to their industrialization. The authors of the *Report*, however, were not very clear on that subject and were indeed somewhat inconsistent, since they stated in one passage that all countries agreed on the desirability of land reform and in another cast doubts upon its value and advocated a change in the structure of agriculture. The need for land reform could not, however, be doubted in such countries as Argentina, where five per cent of the population owned seventy-five per cent of the land. Land reform was obviously desirable in the interests of future industrialization and social justice.

14. It was to be deplored that almost no attention had been paid in the *Report* to rural co-operatives, whereas in the 1959 *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development*¹ it had been stated that the number of co-operatives had increased in almost all countries (page 153), a very promising trend in that it contributed to the development of agriculture, by introducing modern methods of farming and thus raising the income of the rural population. The *Report* did, however, state (p. 19) that the centrally planned countries had generally narrowed the gap between agricultural and non-agricultural incomes, providing stronger incentives for increased agricultural production. That was true of what was occurring in Bulgaria.

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. 59.IV.2.

Between 1946 and 1950, the relatively few large land holdings had been liquidated and thousands of previously landless peasants had been given land. After 1944 the peasants had formed co-operatives in which they owned their own land, the income being distributed in accordance with the type and amount of labour supplied and the area of land contributed to the co-operatives. Development had been rapid and co-operatives and state farms now accounted for ninety-four per cent. of all agricultural production. Production had been diversified and the social conditions of life in rural areas had been greatly improved. A combination of co-operative and state investment had brought a great increase in electric power production, irrigation schemes, housing and free medical services; infant mortality had been reduced, cultural facilities had been expanded, and a system of pensions for agricultural workers had been introduced. Such successes had convinced his delegation that state-assisted agricultural co-operatives might be the method of overcoming under-development in rural areas. The experience of co-operative systems in the socialist countries should therefore be studied and information thereon disseminated. The Bulgarian delegation intended to submit to the Social Committee a draft resolution on the development of co-operatives in rural areas and on the appropriate action to be taken in that connexion by the United Nations and the specialized agencies.¹

15. Miss STRUJIC (Observer for Yugoslavia), speaking at the invitation of the PRESIDENT, said that, despite shortcomings, the *Report on the World Social Situation* merited serious attention.

16. Part I of the *Report* stated that there had been some advance with regard to health and education. Even there, however, the problems would not be solved in the near future if they continued to be tackled at the same rate as at present. The production of food hardly kept pace with the growth of population. The economically less developed countries were struggling with balance-of-payments difficulties and an inadequate influx of capital. The emergence into independence of some States and the struggle of some territories against the vestiges of colonialism were increasing their need of economic and social development, because that was the sole means whereby they could maintain their independence and raise their standards of living. The need was not only for capital investment, but also for technical assistance, especially in training. The Council might well request an increase in such technical assistance.

17. The *Report* might have included more information on mental health, industrialization and automation and might have analysed more fully the specific social problems of the various sectors of the population.

18. Part II of the *Report* was of interest both from a theoretical and a practical standpoint. Further work along the same lines, and especially the preparation of further case studies, would enable the Council to broaden its consideration of the problems involved. Special importance had been given to the role of the State in balancing economic and social development. The State was regarded as having an obligation to take appropriate action, but the

question of the criteria for the measurement of balance still remained open. In the Social Commission the Yugoslav delegation had stated that the *Report* proved the impossibility of demonstrating the worsening or betterment of conditions solely by reference to the production of some specific article. Balance was not merely a balance between production and consumption; it was something far more complex. The ways and means of achieving balance would naturally vary from country to country, but one criterion might be the distribution of the national income. The results achieved in Yugoslavia confirmed that view.

19. The Yugoslav delegation had supported the Social Commission's resolution 6 (XIII), deriving from General Assembly resolution 1392 (XIV), which advocated annual sessions of the Social Commission (E/3489, para. 118). It also supported the draft resolutions and recommendations put forward by the Social Commission (*ibid.*, chapter XII) and hoped that the Council would adopt them.

20. The PRESIDENT declared closed the general debate on item 3, which would be referred to the Social Committee.

The meeting was suspended at 11.50 a.m. and resumed at 12.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Assistance to former Trust Territories and other newly independent States (E/3500, E/3503)

Mr. Foss Shanahan (New Zealand) took the Chair.

21. Mr. HEURTEMATTE (United Nations Commissioner for Technical Assistance), introducing the report on assistance to former Trust Territories and other newly independent States (E/3500), recalled that the General Assembly had approved an additional appropriation under the 1961 budget of \$3.5 million for increasing such assistance, and explained that the report gave an account of how those funds had been expended or obligated. In view of the short time which had elapsed since the adoption of the programme, the Secretariat had only been able to list the projects which were in preparation or on which a start had been made. In any event, the report was a preliminary one, as the programme was being carried out in an area in the full course of development so that information and estimates rapidly became out of date. It nevertheless outlined the range of the programme and noted the radical changes in the field of action of technical assistance resulting from the nature of the problems confronting the newly independent countries during the transitional period through which they were passing. The first stage had necessarily involved defining those problems, sometimes by sending missions to make studies on the spot, since the technical assistance services had not enough local representatives to maintain the necessary contact with national services and ensure the required co-ordination with other assistance programmes, particularly the bilateral programmes.

22. One administrative procedure that seemed to be proving very successful was the increasingly close association of the regional economic commissions in the preparation and implementation of technical assistance programmes.

¹ Subsequently circulated as document E/AC.7/L.398.

Since most of the newly independent countries were in Africa, the secretariat of ECA had been called on to play a major part in drawing up projects, fixing priorities and choosing methods of implementation. Another innovation to be noted was the appointment of regional advisers attached to the ECA secretariat, who were studying, in close collaboration with the staff of the Commission's substantive services, requests for assistance from Member States. A single adviser dealt with several countries, a procedure which reduced costs while ensuring the countries concerned of assistance from a highly qualified expert with an extensive knowledge of the problems of the region. It was hoped to increase the number of those advisers in the near future, thus accelerating the trend towards delegating more technical assistance work to the regional economic commissions.

23. The programme provided several examples of the good co-ordination which had been established between the United Nations, the regional commissions and the various specialized agencies. Particularly significant in that connexion was the Conference of African States on the Development of Education in Africa, which had been organized under the joint auspices of UNESCO and ECA.

24. Attention should be drawn to the considerable expansion of technical assistance activities in the field of statistics. Fifty statisticians were already at work and the approved requests from countries involved five hundred months of work; that figure was likely to rise still higher before the end of the year, as the number of regional statistical advisers would probably be increased beyond the existing five. Five training centres for middle-level and more advanced training of statisticians were being set up. The demand for statisticians was particularly pressing throughout the area and each of the projects which had been undertaken in that field during the last few months had already begun to show concrete results.

25. Though the programme might have started off rather slowly, due to the fact that the development of projects at the national level inevitably took some time, there had recently been a noticeable speeding up; requests were being received in increasing numbers both for the services of experts and for the award of fellowships. There was no doubt that by the end of the year the programme, as envisaged by the Secretary-General after his journey to Africa, would be fully under way.

26. Mr. WODAJO (Ethiopia) said his government was glad that the United Nations fully recognized Africa's special needs. United Nations aid to Africa had greatly

increased over the past two years; aid under EPTA, for instance, had increased from 8.9 per cent to 15.3 per cent of the total, without any reduction in the volume of aid to other under-developed areas. A significant proportion of the contingency allocations in 1960 had also gone to Africa. Greater aid was also being given under the regular programme of technical assistance and the Special Fund. The IBRD, too, had increased its loans to Africa, although the bulk of those loans were going to specific projects in the Sahara and in Mauretania. The Secretary-General had put at \$5 million the additional amount that would be required during the next two years to meet Africa's needs (E/3500, introduction), and he hoped that governments would respond to that call.

27. Most of all, Africa needed training for its man-power. With the help of UNESCO and ECA, it had assessed its needs in education and training and looked to the United Nations to afford substantial help in the next two years. His delegation was fully satisfied with the reports on the Conference of African States on the Development of Education in Africa (E/3498/Add.1-3), and hoped that the Council would take note of them.

28. Mr. NATORF (Poland) said that where assistance to former Trust Territories and other newly independent States was concerned the United Nations should give particular attention to those ex-colonial countries which had only recently embarked on remedying their under-development. To meet the growing need for technical assistance there had been an increase in voluntary contributions to technical assistance funds; his own country had increased its contribution by 33 per cent for the current year. Those funds could best be used to strengthen EPTA, particularly in Africa. Attempts to transfer the burden of aid to the United Nations budget would tend to reduce the effectiveness of concerted action in helping the recently independent countries. United Nations technical assistance to former Trust Territories and other newly independent States, which was an appropriate way of dealing with the aftermath of colonialism, must be increased.

29. Mr. EL-FARRA (Jordan) said that paragraph 2 of the report on assistance to former Trust Territories and other newly independent States showed that rather slow progress was being made in expending and obligating funds. His delegation urged that greater efforts be made to speed up the programme.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.