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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: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Iraq, Israel, Netherlands, Portugal, Tunisia, United Arab Republic.

Observers for the following non-member States: Federal Republic of Germany, Holy See, Switzerland.

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

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

AGENDA ITEM 16

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/3464)

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE (E/3535 and Corr.1)

1. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it the report of the Social Committee on item 16 (E/3535 and Corr.1). If there were no comments, he would put to the vote draft resolutions I, II, III A, III B, IV A, IV B, IV C, V A and V B recommended in that report.

I. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

Draft resolution I was adopted unanimously.

II. OPERATIONS BASED ON CUSTOMS

Draft resolution II was adopted by 9 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.

2. Mr. DAJANI (Jordan) said that he had voted against the resolution, not because he disagreed with its contents but because it would not serve any useful purpose. The

World Health Assembly had already rejected a proposal to undertake the proposed study.

III. STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW: CONSENT TO MARRIAGE, MINIMUM AGE OF MARRIAGE AND THE REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES

A. *Draft Convention*

Draft resolution III A was adopted by 14 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

B. *Recommendation*

Draft resolution III B was adopted unanimously.

3. Mr. BOUQUIN (France) said that his delegation regretted that the Council had been unable to study the draft recommendation in detail and adopt it. However, it had voted for the draft resolution as a whole on the understanding that the Secretariat would prepare draft final clauses to be added to the draft Convention which the Council was transmitting to the General Assembly.

4. The PRESIDENT said that he had been informed by the Secretariat that the request made by the French representative would be complied with.

5. Sir Samuel HOARE (United Kingdom), referring to the request made by the French representative, said that his delegation had already made it clear in the Social Committee that it was entirely in favour of the proposed draft convention. It would, however, subscribe to it only if the final clauses contained the appropriate territorial application clause.

IV. ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

A. *Discrimination in employment and occupation*

Draft resolution IV A was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

B. *Expansion of employment opportunities for women*

Draft resolution IV B was adopted unanimously.

C. *Tax legislation applicable to women*

Draft resolution IV C was adopted by 13 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

V. ACCESS OF WOMEN TO EDUCATION

A. *Access of women to the teaching profession*

Draft resolution V A was adopted unanimously.

B. *Discrimination in education.*

6. Mrs. DELLA GHERARDESCA asked for a separate vote on the words "or equivalent" in operative paragraph 1. *The Council decided by 9 votes to 3, with 5 abstentions, to retain those words.*

Draft resolution V B, as a whole, was adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Assistance to former Trust Territories and other newly independent States (E/3500, E/3503) (resumed from the 1170th meeting)

7. Mr. HESSELLUND JENSEN (Denmark) said that in the so-called advanced countries resources were scarce in relation to the many demands to be satisfied. In the donor countries, international investments had to compete with demands for national investments. The most urgent need facing the international community was therefore to increase the yield of financial assistance by making it an integral part of a comprehensive plan for the development of the world economy.

8. The recipient countries also had a vital part to play; they had to use the aid in such a way that, while it served their own development, it did not hamper that of neighbouring countries.

9. The need for developing countries to raise the level of their domestic savings had been repeatedly stressed. To that end, an expansion of their trade was essential. In that connexion, the new countries should not concentrate solely on exports to the advanced countries, but should endeavour to develop their regional trade.

10. Many new States had been successful in establishing new export industries, but had found it difficult to develop industries for their home markets because those markets were too small to allow for a plant of optimum size. An expansion of regional trade would enlarge local markets and enable each country to concentrate on those articles which it was best suited to produce.

11. Denmark had benefited from foreign aid under the Marshall Plan. On the basis of that experience, he could safely say that the success of that Plan had been largely due to the agreed scheme of regional co-operation which had led to a better division of labour among the participating countries.

12. Only recently had it been accepted that economic advancement depended as much on education and training as on investment and capital goods. Western Europe's rapid recovery from war-time destruction had been due not only to United States generosity, but also to the advanced system of education in technology and science which had placed it in a favourable position to utilize to the best advantage the aid thus received.

13. In voting for General Assembly resolution 1527 (XV), his delegation had laid particular stress on the importance of regional training institutes, seminars, fellowships, scholarships and in-service training. It was therefore with great satisfaction that his delegation noted the excellent results obtained by the Addis Ababa Conference of African States on the Development of Education in Africa (E/3498/Add.2) in regard to the organization of training programmes for African economists, civil servants and others, both in ECA and at United Nations Headquarters.

14. The vocational and specialized training extended to young Africans by those programmes was not only essential for their future work in their own countries, but would also serve to make them aware of the similarities of

the problems of the different countries in Africa and of the advantages to be gained by regional co-operation.

15. His country was ready to assist the new countries, not only by providing a share of the financing through the various channels of the United Nations family but, what might well perhaps be more important, by helping those countries, through regional training programmes to obtain as quickly as possible the necessary specialized and vocational training facilities which would enable them to derive the best possible advantage from the assistance received.

16. Miss SALT (United Kingdom) said that the emergence of a large number of independent States was perhaps the most significant advance in what was otherwise a depressing period of history. Most of the newly independent States were in Africa; some of them were former dependent territories of the United Kingdom, and their newly acquired nationhood was therefore a source of pride to her country.

17. The process was continuing and was exemplified in the recent independence of Sierra Leone, the peaceful progress towards independence of Tanganyika and the future formation of an independent Federation of the West Indies.

18. In the light of those developments, it was appropriate for the Council to give special consideration to the economic and social needs not only of the newly independent States, but also of the emerging countries. The process of helping a country to stand on its feet, economically and socially, should start before full independence was gained.

19. In its resolution 1527 (XV), the General Assembly had reiterated the responsibilities both of the United Nations and of the economically advanced countries to provide effective and increasing financial and technical assistance to the new and emerging countries.

20. The United Kingdom had responded to the sense of urgency which that resolution conveyed. Direct bilateral assistance from the United Kingdom to Africa had increased from some \$57 million in 1958-59 to some \$135 million in 1960. Most of that aid had naturally gone to Commonwealth countries. Private capital from the United Kingdom was estimated to flow to the developing countries at the rate of \$400 million a year, much of it to Africa. In the academic year 1959/60, over 11,500 students from Africa had attended institutions in the United Kingdom, in addition to the substantial number of African teachers receiving training there.

21. There was, however, no room for complacency. The needs of the newly independent and emerging countries were daily increasing and it was essential to attempt to respond to those needs.

22. As far as the United Nations and the specialized agencies were concerned, their response had been prompt and effective. Total assistance to Africa under EPTA and the Special Fund had been substantially increased. It was particularly gratifying to note that at the same time aid to other regions had not been reduced.

23. Some of the specialized agencies had allocated a special part of their budget to Africa. The 1960 General

Conference of UNESCO had, for example, voted an extra \$1 million for educational needs in that continent. Other specialized agencies had organized studies and seminars adapted to the particular needs of African countries.

24. The recent joint ECA/UNESCO conference on education held at Addis Ababa was a striking example of the successful way in which the basic problems affecting Africa could be studied.

25. Her delegation, while endorsing the plea of the representative of Jordan made at the previous meeting that the programmes be speeded up wherever possible, expressed approval of the efforts of the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies in the matter and hoped that the Council would express its support and approval of those efforts in its report to the General Assembly.

26. Mr. VIAUD (France) said that his delegation welcomed the Council's prompt response to the Secretary-General's appeal for action. It was true that there had been some delay in executing the regular programmes of assistance and it was always a matter for regret when the resources available were not put to immediate use; but the delay had made it possible to draw up programmes genuinely suited to the needs of the countries concerned, and it was to be hoped that TAC would receive fuller information on the matter in the following November. The implementation of the regular programmes had been accompanied by increased efforts under EPTA and greater flexibility in execution in the interests of the newly independent countries. The Executive Director of TAB had received authority to raise the ceiling for contingency allocations from 5 per cent to 7.5 per cent, which had certainly enabled him to give substantial assistance in the most urgent cases. At the same time, the increase in the amounts pledged for 1961 had made it possible to increase the proportion assigned in the Programme to the independent countries of Africa without a corresponding reduction in the other countries' share. The French Government had increased its contribution to EPTA by 25 per cent in anticipation of an increase in the number of applications from independent African States.

27. A clear distinction should be drawn between the two programmes of action of the United Nations, the regular programme and EPTA. Excellent results had been achieved through voluntary contributions to EPTA, a method which was preferable to the system of compulsory budgetary contributions, and should be encouraged.

28. As to what remained to be done, it would be desirable, as the French delegation had already pointed out, to emphasize the training of skilled technicians and administrative personnel. It was in that sphere that the needs of the newly independent countries were most acute and that assistance could do most service. Attention should also be given to the training of teachers who, in their turn, would train the specialists. It was desirable that, once the first indispensable assistance had been given by the United Nations, the countries concerned should take over responsibility for the programmes as quickly as possible and train their own personnel. That need had not escaped the attention of the Special Fund. Moreover, the conclusions

reached at the Conference on the development of Education in Africa held at Addis Ababa might form the basis for further United Nations action in that field.

29. The French delegation agreed that the Secretary-General was making the best possible use of the facilities given him by the Council, which need only express its satisfaction at what had been done. No immediate action was called for pending the receipt of more detailed information by TAC.

30. Mr. WADE (New Zealand) said that the appearance of many new States had brought into prominence needs which had always existed, but which had not been fully recognized in programmes of international assistance. In response to those needs, the Council had adopted its resolutions 752 (XXIX) and 768 (XXX) and the General Assembly its resolution 1527 (XV) under which a departure had been made from the provision of assistance through EPTA and the Special Fund.

31. In the regular budget an allocation had been made for a sum of \$3 million in addition to the initial estimates of \$2,455,000 in part V of the 1961 budget. The events of the past year had confirmed the wisdom of that action, and the additional allocation had been largely responsible for the impressive range of projects set forth in the report by the Secretary-General (E/3500). He would hope that the Council and the General Assembly would take into account the need for re-appropriating for 1962 funds remaining unspent at the close of 1961 under the related operative sections of the budget. That suggestion was made in recognition of the ever-increasing need to provide maximum aid to newly independent and emerging States as they became aware of the services which could be rendered by the organization.

32. It was worth noting that full use had been made of the ECA services in drawing up programmes and in helping to administer many of the projects. Maximum advantage was thus derived from that regional commission's close contact with national authorities and its direct knowledge of the problems of the area.

33. He expressed satisfaction at the results of the decision taken by the Council in its resolution 788 (XXX) which had provided for an increase in the level of the contingency authority of the Executive Chairman of TAB from 5 per cent to 7.5 per cent for 1960, so that increased assistance to newly independent countries could begin under EPTA without delay. The increased flexibility provided by that measure had made it possible to redress the former disproportion in the regional shares of TAB's field programmes. Countries of Africa would benefit more fully than previously from programmes of technical assistance; their share in the planned programme of TAB for 1961-1962 had increased to about 30 per cent of the total. In the case of the sixteen African countries which had become independent in 1960, their share had increased more than threefold, while in the case of the various African territories approaching independence, their share of planned programmes showed a fivefold increase between 1960 and 1961.

34. It was particularly significant that that correction of the previous imbalance in the application of technical assistance funds had been accomplished without detri-

ment to other regions, notably Asia and Latin America, the needs of which continued to be serious and urgent.

35. The importance of bilateral programmes available to African countries and the need to dovetail them with the work done by the United Nations should not be overlooked. He had therefore noted with satisfaction the remarks of the United Nations Commissioner for Technical Assistance on that point at the previous meeting.

36. During a recent visit to a number of newly independent countries, he had been able to observe the transitional problems faced by those countries. Those problems required particular attention from the United Nations family and it was important that the General Assembly should approve the continuation of the kind of measures for which provision had been made in the budgetary appropriation of \$3.5 million in 1961. In particular, he hoped that the Council would agree to the appropriation of the further sum of \$1.5 million which the Secretary-General had estimated would be required during the period 1961-1962.

37. In the process of expanding assistance to the newly independent countries and to emerging States, full use should be made of the resident representatives. The strengthening of the role of the regional economic commissions would also help assistance programmes to bear more rapid fruit.

38. In view of the acute shortage of trained personnel in the African countries, he hoped that a greater proportion of OPEX personnel would be working in those countries in the coming months.

39. In conclusion, his delegation considered that the plan of assistance to Africa had, in its broad lines, been satisfactorily launched.

40. Mr. ROSS (United States of America) was glad to note from the report by the Secretary-General and from the statement by the United Nations Commissioner for Technical Assistance that much progress had been made in providing assistance to the newly independent States under the regular and Expanded Programmes of Technical Assistance and that there had been a significant increase in the amount of assistance provided to Africa without any reduction in that available to other less developed countries.

41. He hoped that difficulties encountered in meeting the requirements of the countries concerned would soon be overcome and shared the view expressed at the previous meeting by the representative of Jordan that technical assistance projects under the regular programme should be expedited.

42. His delegation was strongly in favour of using the regular budget of the United Nations for providing additional technical assistance to the newly independent countries provided that the amount of assistance available to other less developed countries was not reduced.

43. Mr. MAKEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed his delegation's sympathy with the countries of Africa which were experiencing a difficult period of political and economic reconstruction. At the Council's thirtieth session, his delegation had advocated increased aid to African countries under EPTA, and from the

Special Fund. He was glad to note that Africa's share of the total resources of EPTA would amount to 29 per cent in the period 1961-1962, or twice as much as in the previous year; and that of the seventy-one projects approved by the Special Fund in 1960, fifteen were to be undertaken in African countries, in contrast with only four in 1959.

44. Additional help to Africa had been made possible by increased contributions from many countries, including the Soviet Union, which had doubled its contribution to EPTA for 1961. In future years, assistance to the less developed countries of Africa should be provided from the voluntary assistance programmes, and not from the regular budget of the United Nations. The regular budget was strictly limited and was intended mainly to finance the administrative and organizational activities of the Secretariat. Further, while the regular budget was virtually under the personal control of the Secretary-General, the voluntary assistance programmes operated under the direction of elected bodies.

45. His country would continue to provide assistance to the less developed countries, both under bilateral arrangements and through the United Nations. He appealed to the newly independent African countries to make full use of the Soviet contributions to EPTA and the Special Fund.

46. Mr. PETROV (Bulgaria) opined that all future programmes of assistance to former Trust Territories and other newly independent States in Africa should be drawn up in close co-operation with the secretariat of ECA; that the main lines of any general development programme for Africa should be determined by ECA and the governments of African countries, which understood local needs better than anyone else; and that assistance to former Trust Territories in Africa should be concentrated on projects likely to promote rapid industrial development, the importance of which was emphasized in the sixth preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 1527 (XV). The requests for assistance described in chapter III, part B, of the report by the Secretary-General (E/3500) clearly showed that most of the countries concerned wanted help in developing their industry, transport and agriculture, and in exploiting their natural resources.

47. It was obviously impossible to provide all the assistance needed under the regular and the Expanded Programmes of Technical Assistance, and serious consideration should be given to the other methods of helping less developed countries which had been outlined in the general debate on items 2 and 5 of the agenda.

48. In the last paragraph of the introduction (chapter I) of the report by the Secretary-General, special mention was made of education and training as one of the main needs of the newly independent countries. He was not convinced that the best possible use was being made of qualified foreign specialists, and future reports might give more consideration to the possibilities of training local experts.

49. Mr. PAZHAWAK (Afghanistan) regretted that the Council lacked the necessary time for a thorough discussion of assistance to former Trust Territories and that it was unable to comply with operative paragraph 7, part B, of the draft resolution submitted by the delegations of

African countries to the General Assembly (E/3503). He hoped that the subject would be considered in greater detail at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

50. Recent experience in Africa had shown how essential it was for the United Nations to provide assistance for the countries concerned before they achieved independence and in such a manner as not to delay that event.

51. In principle, he was in favour of additional assistance being provided under the regular budget of the United Nations, but it could only be sufficiently substantial if States Members increased their contributions. Countries which were themselves in the course of development could hardly afford to increase their contributions to the United Nations for that purpose, and the larger part of the assistance required by the newly independent countries should be provided by the States which were mainly responsible for the difficulties which the former Trust Territories had to face after achieving independence.

52. Mr. HEURTEMATTE (United Nations Commissioner for Technical Assistance) said that a number of delegations had deplored the delay in carrying out programmes. It was possible that, in reporting, the technical assistance authorities had perhaps sacrificed clarity to brevity. He would explain that the programmes comprised two stages: programming and implementation. The second was fairly simple since it involved merely operating the administrative machinery set up by the United Nations, but the first was more difficult because it meant that the technical assistance authorities were obliged to get newly constituted governments to define those of their needs that could be met from United Nations resources. Such information had often been difficult to obtain, since in many new States there was neither a resident representative nor any representative of an international body who could help governments to form an estimate of the situation.

53. Nevertheless, the work of definition had been speeded up over the past few months. Whereas in 1960 the value of the programmes assigned to Africa had amounted to a little more than a million dollars, the allocations pledged or contributed during the first five months of 1961 had risen to \$1.2 million and by July 1961 had reached the figure of \$1.8 million. That encouraging trend would certainly continue, for the increase of six or seven in the number of resident representatives planned for the current year would have a decisive effect on the rapid implementation of the programmes.

54. The PRESIDENT observed that no resolution had been submitted on agenda item 12 and that the question of assistance to former Trust Territories and other newly independent States would be before the General Assembly at its sixteenth session, when consideration would be given to a resolution submitted jointly by the delegations of African countries. In the circumstances, and bearing in mind the observations made by a number of representatives, he proposed that the Council should conclude its consideration of item 12 by deciding to include in its report to the General Assembly a paragraph expressing the Council's satisfaction at the progress recorded in the Secretary-General's report, and recording the main points made during the discussion of item 12 and the importance

attached by the Council to the continuance by the United Nations, the related agencies and the Special Fund of programmes which would assist former Trust Territories and newly independent States to prosper their economic and social development.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 5 p.m. and resumed at 5.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Reports of the regional economic commissions (E/3452/Rev.1, E/3466, E/3468, E/3486, E/3522, E/L.909, E/L.910) (resumed from 1156th meeting)

55. The PRESIDENT recalled that at its 1156th meeting the Council had agreed to adjourn its consideration of item 6 of the agenda in order to give any delegations so desiring opportunity of submitting draft resolutions.

56. If there were no comments he would put to the vote the draft resolutions submitted by the four regional economic commissions.

57. He would remind the Council that at the 1154th meeting the United Kingdom representative had suggested a minor drafting change in part I of the draft resolution submitted by the Economic Commission for Africa (E/3452/Rev.1, Part IV) which, thus amended, would read:

"The Economic and Social Council,

" I

" 1. Takes note of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 7 February 1960 to 18 February 1961, and of the recommendations and resolutions contained in parts II and III of that document;

" 2. Endorses the programme of work and priorities contained in part V of the report;"

The drafting change in part I of the draft resolution submitted by the Economic Commission for Africa was approved.

The draft resolution submitted by the Economic Commission for Africa, as a whole and as amended, was adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution submitted by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (E/3466, para. 428) was adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution submitted by the Economic Commission for Europe (E/3468, part IV) was adopted unanimously.

The draft resolution submitted by the Economic Commission for Latin America (E/3486, part IV) was adopted unanimously.

58. Mr. SIDJANSKI (Venezuela), introducing the draft resolution on the decentralization of activities and operations of the regional economic commissions submitted jointly by the delegations of Brazil, El Salvador, Ethiopia, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (E/L.909), explained that the proposal was related to Economic and Social Council resolution 793 (XXX) and

General Assembly resolution 1518 (XV), of which it was the logical and practical consequence. The United Nations had wisely renounced the principle of excessive centralization which limited the attributions of the regional commissions to studies and inquiries. That decision had been taken under pressure of the two-fold need to rationalize operations by adapting them to the requirements and characteristics of each region and to make the best use of available resources. Regional decentralization would complete the division of labour.

59. In the fourth and fifth paragraphs of the preamble of the draft resolution, the sponsors laid stress on the need to maintain a balance between regional competence and the central authority. The last paragraph of the preamble referred to a suggestion by the Secretary-General, in connexion with which the sponsors opposed the transfer of staff from one commission to another if that implied weakening instead of strengthening a commission. That interpretation was confirmed by operative paragraph 3. The administrative and organizational measures mentioned in the same paragraph might in the sponsor's opinion include amendments to the Statute or the basic rules.

60. In operative paragraph 4 the sponsors readily accepted the suggestion by the United Kingdom delegation for the insertion of the words "in their respective regions" after the words "full utilization". Lastly, the establishment of technical assistance units in the regional economic commissions would be left to the discretion of the executive secretaries, subject to approval by the General Assembly.

61. The Polish delegation had submitted an amendment (E/L.910), first, in the fourth preambular paragraph to insert the word "governments" between the words "role to play in assisting" and "in the initiation" and, secondly, to add a new paragraph in the operative part, to read:

"5. *Recommends* also that technical assistance to countries not members of regional economic commissions should be channelled as heretofore through the United Nations secretariat at Headquarters and its volume should not be affected by the decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations."

The sponsors accepted the first amendment, but in place of the second they preferred the text which would be submitted by the United States delegation and which amended the wording of the Polish proposal whilst retaining its substance.

62. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) expressed the view that, although it was necessary and desirable, decentralization of United Nations activities should not be carried out in such a way as to impair unity, consistency and integration. His delegation had been glad to co-sponsor the draft resolution before the Council, since it preserved the necessary balance in the process of decentralization.

63. The first Polish amendment would clarify and improve the wording of preambular paragraph 4, and was acceptable.

64. The second Polish amendment had the aim of preventing States Members of the United Nations which were not members of regional economic commissions from being placed at a disadvantage by any further degree of decentralization, a purpose which he supported. However, in order to avoid an unintended implication in its drafting the additional operative paragraph proposed by the Polish delegation might be re-worded to read:

"5. *Recommends* also that neither the manner of handling technical assistance requests of countries not members of regional economic commissions nor the volume of such assistance should be affected by any decentralization of the economic and social activities of the United Nations."

65. Mr. MELLER-CONRAD (Poland) said that he would prefer the deletion of the word "any" before the word "decentralization", but otherwise was prepared to accept the United States wording.

66. Mr. BLAU (United States of America) said that his delegation would not object to the deletion of the word "any".

67. Mr. WADE (New Zealand) said that his delegation would vote for the joint draft resolution.

68. The Economic Commissions for Latin America, Africa and Asia and the Far East in particular had been steadily acquiring experience in operational activities and had demonstrated in an impressive way their ability to cope with many of the problems of their own regions, so that it was possible for the United Nations to make increasing use of their special knowledge and experience.

69. His delegation, like the sponsors of the joint draft resolution, saw the process of decentralization as part of the general process of strengthening the United Nations machinery as a whole. The joint draft resolution rightly aimed at preserving a balance between the operational activities of the regional economic commissions and those of the central Secretariat; it recognized that certain matters required consideration and action on a global basis; and it emphasized the importance of close co-operation and co-ordination between the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the various agencies concerned in operational activities, and between their respective organizations at the regional level. Similar considerations applied to the relationships at the regional level. Similar considerations applied to the relationships at the regional and the headquarters levels within each member of the United Nations family. He had no doubt that the Secretary-General and the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions would bear in mind the need for closest co-operation and fullest consultation between the centre and the regions in the establishment and operation of technical assistance units in the secretariats of the regional economic commissions.

70. Mr. DALPONTE (El Salvador) said his delegation had been a co-sponsor of the joint draft resolution because it took a keen interest in the problems connected with the elaboration of technical assistance programmes. It accepted paragraph 2 of the Polish amendments as redrafted by the United States. The TAC had already

adopted a resolution¹ to the effect that the Executive Chairman of TAB should each year consult the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions in regard to the economic and social factors to be taken into account in the preparation of the programmes in countries of their regions. That procedure would be especially useful in Latin America, for it would permit of closer co-operation between inter-American technical assistance organs and those of the United Nations. It was made possible by the tripartite agreement that had been concluded between the Executive Secretary of ECLA, the President of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States.

71. Mr. TOKUHISA (Japan) said that decentralization should in no way weaken the role of Headquarters as coordinator of all United Nations activities. With that reservation, his delegation would support the joint draft resolution, as amended by the Polish delegation.

72. Mr. DIAS CARNEIRO (Brazil) said he had no objection to the Polish amendments, and supported the United States redraft of paragraph 2.

73. Mr. PAZHAWAK (Afghanistan) expressed the hope that the comments on decentralization made by his delegation at the 1156th meeting during the general debate on item 6 of the agenda would be borne in mind if the joint draft resolution were adopted.

74. As to the text of the joint draft resolution, the wording of the fifth preambular paragraph was too weak an expression of certain considerations which his own and other delegations had laid before the Council during the

general debate. It would be advisable to transfer the paragraph, suitably re-worded, to the operative part of the joint draft resolution.

75. It was inconsistent with the Council's previous practice to include in the sixth preambular paragraph a quotation from the relevant note by the Secretary-General. If the Council agreed with the Secretary-General's recommendations, the sixth preambular paragraph should read: "*Having noted* that steps towards strengthening the regional secretariats,".

76. Similarly, if the Council agreed with the suggestion made in paragraph 4 of the note by the Secretary-General, the first two lines of operative paragraph 4 should read simply:

"4. *Recommends* that the question of . . .".

77. Mr. TIMOFEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that, in view of the general purport of the draft resolution, a better title would be "Strengthening of the role of the regional economic commissions".

78. Mr. VIAUD (France) said his delegation had some doubts about paragraph 4 of the operative part which seemed to go beyond the sphere of decentralization properly so-called, and affected the organization of the Secretariat. It was not the moment for the Council to concern itself with administrative, financial and constitutional matters, from which it should keep aloof.

79. The French delegation considering that the sponsors of the joint draft resolution could usefully revise the text with that point in mind, proposed the adjournment of the meeting to give time for that to be done.

That proposal was approved.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.

¹ Subsequently included in the TAC report to the Council (E/3547, para. 129).