

1983rd meeting

Thursday, 15 January 1976, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast).

E/SR.1983

Tribute to the memory of Tun Haji Abdul Razak bin Dato Hussein, Prime Minister of Malaysia

1. The PRESIDENT expressed condolences to the Malaysian delegation and to the people of Malaysia on the death of Prime Minister Abdul Razak.

On the proposal of the President, the members of the Council observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Tun Haji Abdul Razak bin Dato Hussein, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

2. Mr. AZZAT (Malaysia) thanked the President and the members of the Council for their expression of sympathy.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Election of the Bureau (concluded)

3. The PRESIDENT said he had been informed that, on the basis of informal consultations, the Group of Asian States had nominated Mr. Mehdi Ehsassi (Iran) for the office of Vice-President for 1976.

Mr. Ehsassi (Iran) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

4. The PRESIDENT said that, as a result of the consultations which he had held in accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure, it had been decided that Mr. Ladislav Smíd (Czechoslovakia) would be Chairman of the Economic Committee, Mr. Edouard Longerstaeey (Belgium) would be Chairman of the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee, Mr. Rafael Rivas (Colombia) would be Chairman of the Social Committee and Mr. Mehdi Ehsassi (Iran) would be Chairman of the Special Economic Committee.

5. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the annotations to agenda item 5 in documents E/5755 and Add.1/Rev.1, and invited the Council to proceed to the election of members of the bodies concerned.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Election of members of subsidiary and related bodies of the Council and confirmation of representatives on functional commissions

ELECTIONS (E/5756, E/L.1678, E/L.1683)

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/L.1678)

6. Mr. LONGERSTAEY (Belgium) requested, on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, that the elections to the Executive Board of UNICEF be postponed until the sixtieth session, as the Group had not yet submitted a full list of candidates. There was no urgency, because the new Executive Board was not scheduled to meet until the beginning of the following year and the term of office of the current members did not expire until July 1976.

7. Mr. DE MOURA (Brazil) proposed that the Council should act immediately on the three candidates presented by the Latin American and Eastern European

Groups, while postponing the other elections until the spring session.

8. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) and Mr. AMIRDZHANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported by the Brazilian proposal.

9. Mr. SANDERS (United States of America) pointed out that the Executive Board of UNICEF was not elected on the basis of strict geographical distribution, and said that it would be improper to act as if it were.

10. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) and Miss COURSON (France) supported the statement of the United States representative.

11. Mr. TUKAN (Jordan) said that if there were partial elections the Asian Group would be in the same position as those of Latin America and Eastern Europe, since it also had a candidate.

12. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) said that, if the composition of the Executive Board would not be affected, there should be no objection to proceeding with the election of those candidates who had already been selected. Each candidate would be filling the vacancy for his own regional group, and there were precedents for partial elections.

13. Mr. KOSSEV (Bulgaria) supported the Brazilian proposal, since partial elections would not affect the future composition of the UNICEF Executive Board.

14. Mr. YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, if the Asian candidate was Japan, there arose the question whether it was a donor country or an Asian country. As a donor country it would fall within the Western group.

15. Mr. AMIRDZHANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Asian group had agreed on Japan as a candidate, and there was no reason to postpone the election of those candidates who could be elected forthwith.

16. The PRESIDENT suggested that, if the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and France had no objection, the Council should proceed to elect the candidates from Eastern Europe and Latin America, on the understanding that that would have no effect on the composition of the UNICEF Executive Board.

It was so decided.

17. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the only candidates of which the Council secretariat had so far been informed were Brazil and Japan, and that no communication had been received from the Eastern European Group.

18. Mr. KOSSEV (Bulgaria) said that Poland and the USSR were the candidates for Eastern Europe.

19. Mr. YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) asked whether Brazil was in fact the Latin American candidate and, if so, whether Venezuela had withdrawn its candidacy.

20. Mr. VOLPE (Venezuela) confirmed that Venezuela had withdrawn its candidacy.

21. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that Brazil, Japan, Poland and the USSR were elected for a term of three years beginning on 1 August 1976 and expiring on 31 July 1979, and that elections to fill the remaining six vacant seats on the Executive Board of UNICEF would be postponed until the sixtieth session.

It was so decided (see decision 143 (ORG-76), para. 1).

Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes
(E/L.1683)

22. The PRESIDENT said that the election of members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes would take place in two stages. First, a member from among the African States would be elected for a term of office effective immediately and expiring in 1978. Three more members would then be elected, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3404 (XXX), for terms of one year, two years and three years respectively, as decided by the drawing of lots.

23. In electing members to the Committee, the Council was requested, in resolution 3404 (XXX), paragraph 4, to take into account the need for the balanced representation of economically developed and developing countries and other relevant factors, such as the representation of potential participating countries, both contributing and recipient, equitable geographical distribution and the representation of both developed and developing countries having commercial interests in international trade in food-stuffs, especially those highly dependent on such trade.

24. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat had not been informed of any candidature for the seat allocated to African States. The announced candidates for the three other vacancies were Argentina, Belgium—with the endorsement of the Group of Western European and other States—and the Philippines.

25. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) said he understood that the three new seats must be filled by contributors, but he believed that geographical distribution was also a factor and wished to know whether or not the African States had a right to one of those seats.

26. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that she was not in a position to clarify that point. However, she noted that the annex to document E/L.1683 contained a list of members elected by the FAO Council, including the other three additional members, and that the names of three African States appeared on that list. The list of members elected by the Economic and Social Council would also have included three African States if there had been a candidate for the vacant seat. However, as in the case of the Executive Board of UNICEF, there was no fixed geographical distribution of seats.

27. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that Argentina, Belgium and the Philippines were elected and that the election, for a term of three years, of one member from African States would be postponed until the sixtieth session.

It was so decided (see decision 143 (ORG-76), para. 1).

28. The PRESIDENT announced that lots had been drawn to establish the terms for which the new mem-

bers would serve, effective immediately. Belgium would serve for three years, the Philippines for two years and Argentina for one year.

International Narcotics Control Board (E/5756)

29. The PRESIDENT drew attention to document E/5756, paragraph 3. If there were no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt a decision in the form suggested by the Secretary-General in that paragraph.

It was so decided (decision 138 (ORG-76), para. 1).

30. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council also wished, as suggested in document E/5756, paragraph 5, to set up a Committee on Candidatures for Election to the Board, which could meet at Geneva on 25 and 26 March 1976 and report to the Council at its sixtieth session.

It was so decided (decision 138 (ORG-76), para. 2).

31. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretary-General had been notified of the following candidates for the Committee on Candidatures: France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America. He understood that all but Japan had the endorsement of the Group of Western and other States.

32. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) said that he himself might wish to become a candidate for the Committee on Candidatures. He wondered what was the position of the current members of the International Narcotics Control Board, as listed in annex III to document E/5756.

33. Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina) noted that the previous Committee on Candidatures had been composed of 13 members, but that there were only eight candidates for the new Committee. In that connexion, he asked whether the Committee on Candidatures was to meet only once, in March 1976, or whether it would be possible to expand its membership later.

34. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the number of members of the Committee on Candidatures was not fixed; while its predecessor had had 13 members it was for the Council to decide whether it could function with a smaller membership. As the Committee was to meet only once and to report to the Council at its sixtieth session, its members would have to be elected at the current session.

35. The PRESIDENT invited delegations of Governments interested in becoming members of the Committee on Candidatures to inform the Secretary of the Council without delay. He suggested that the election should be deferred until the following meeting.

It was so decided.

Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
(E/5755, item 5)

36. The PRESIDENT said that the election was pending of one member of CPC from Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1977. He drew attention to General Assembly resolution 3392 (XXX), in which the Assembly had encouraged Member States to be

represented in CPC at an adequate level in order to raise the expertise of that Committee.

37. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that no notice of candidature had been received from the Asian Group.

38. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) suggested that, as the Asian Group had not agreed on a candidate, the election should be postponed until a future session.

It was so decided (see decision 143 (ORG-76), para. 1).

Committee on Science and Technology for Development (E/5755, item 5)

39. The PRESIDENT said that the election was pending of three members of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development from Asian States whose election had been postponed at a previous session, two for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1979 and one for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1978.

40. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that no notice of candidature had been received.

41. The PRESIDENT suggested that the election should again be postponed until a subsequent session.

It was so decided (see decision 143 (ORG-76), para. 1).

Committee on Natural Resources (E/5755, item 5)

42. The PRESIDENT said that the election was pending of one member of the Committee on Natural Resources from Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1978.

43. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that no notice of candidature had been received.

44. Mr. HACHANI (Tunisia) suggested that the election should be postponed only until the following meeting, as he understood that the Asian States did have a candidate.

It was so decided.

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/5755, item 5)

45. The PRESIDENT said that the election was pending of one member of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations from African and Asian States and one member from Latin American States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1978.

46. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that no notice of candidature had been received from African and Asian States. In the case of Latin American States, Cuba had submitted its candidature.

47. Mr. GUTIERREZ (Bolivia) said that the Latin American States had not met officially to consult or to endorse the candidature of Cuba. He himself, as Chairman of the Latin American Group, had no objection to the candidature of Cuba, provided that it were not regarded as the official candidate.

48. Mr. BARCELO (Mexico) said that he had no objection to the candidate for the vacant Latin American seat, provided that there were no objection on the part of others.

49. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council elected Cuba and postponed the election of a member from African and Asian States until a subsequent session.

It was so decided (see decision 143 (ORG-76), para. 1).

Board of Governors of the United Nations Special Fund (E/5755/Add.1/Rev.1)

50. The PRESIDENT said that, pursuant to a decision taken by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session, one member of the Board of Governors of the United Nations Special Fund was to be elected from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1978. The candidate proposed by the group of Western European and other States was Japan, and if there were no objection he would take it that the Council elected Japan.

It was so decided (see decision 143 (ORG-76), para. 1).

51. The PRESIDENT noted that another member remained to be elected from Western European and other States, as decided by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. As there was no candidate for that seat, the election would be postponed until a later session.

Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies

52. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to appoint the members of the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies, established under Council resolution 11 (I).

53. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the candidates were Canada, France, Greece, Italy and Japan. She recalled that in the past the Committee had had nine members.

54. Mr. SANDERS (United States of America) said that his Government did not intend to present itself as a candidate for membership in the Committee, but did intend to be part of the negotiating team for IFAD.

55. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) suggested that the Council might decide to postpone until its spring session the formal establishment of the Committee. Like the United States representative, some members of the Council might wish to be members of the IFAD Committee, and in that connexion he suggested that members should first take a decision on that point and then inform the secretariat of the Economic and Social Council, before the sixtieth session, if they wished to become members of the Council Committee.

56. He recalled that in the past the President of the Council had been Chairman of the consultations and thus could not be a member of either negotiating team. The two Committees should be established by spring, as negotiations should, in principle, finish before the summer session.

57. Mr. CARANICAS (Greece) suggested that the formal constitution of the Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies should be deferred until the sixtieth session.

58. Referring to the question of elections in general, he said that the procedure followed was somewhat unorthodox and confusing, for example in the case of the election of one member to the Committee on Non-

Governmental Organizations. He suggested that in future members should inform the Secretary-General if they wished to become candidates, and that chairmen of regional groups should submit the names of candidates in order to allow the Council to proceed in a more orderly fashion.

59. Mr. SANDERS (United States of America) stressed the importance which his Government attached to the issue under consideration and said that it would have to reconsider its position if postponing the election would lead to any delay in negotiations.

60. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the negotiating schedule would not be affected if the election were postponed until the sixtieth session, as the statute of the International Fund for Agricultural Development would not be approved before spring. He requested authorization from the Council to seek information from the IFAD secretariat on the establishment of the IFAD negotiating team before the spring session.

61. Mr. SANDERS (United States of America) accepted the statement made by the Secretary of the Council. He expressed the hope that members would decide before the spring session whether they wished to participate in the Council Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies or in the IFAD Committee.

62. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council postponed until a future session the election of members of the Council Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies and authorized the Secretary of the Council to obtain the necessary information on the constitution of the Fund's negotiating team.

It was so decided (see decision 143 (ORG-76), para. 1).

CONFIRMATION (E/5752 AND ADD.1-3, E/5754)

Functional commissions of the Council
(E/5752 and Add.1-3)

63. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to confirm the names of the representatives on the functional commissions listed in document E/5752 and Add.1-3. There was an error in document E/5752; foot-note 4 should indicate that Mr. Garment had replaced Mr. Hoffman at the thirty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights.

64. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) drew attention to an omission in document E/5752; the names listed under the heading "Population Commission" should include that of Mr. Kauko M. Sipponen of Finland, whose curriculum vitae would be circulated as soon as possible.

65. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council confirmed the names of all the persons listed in document E/5752 and Add.1-3, with the addition of Mr. Sipponen.

It was so decided (see decision 143 (ORG-76), para. 2).

Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and Working Group of the Sub-Commission (E/5754)

66. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to confirm the names of one member of the Sub-Commission and one member of the Working Group of the Sub-Commission. If there were no objection, he would take it that the Council confirmed the names of those members, which were listed in document E/5754, paragraphs 2 and 3.

It was so decided (see decision 143 (ORG-76), para. 2).

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

1984th meeting

Thursday, 15 January 1976, at 3.45 p.m.

President: Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast)

E/SR.1984

AGENDA ITEM 4

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1976 (concluded)* (E/5753, E/L.1685, E/L.1686)

1. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the programme of work as outlined in paragraph 1, sections A and B, of document E/L.1686.

It was so decided (decision 137 (ORG-76), para. 1).

2. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that, given the importance of the items on the agenda for its sixty-first session, the Council should know how long the resumed sixty-first session would last and when it would be held.

3. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) replied that, in principle, the resumed session consisted only of plenary meetings and that it was customary to discuss the arrangements for such a session towards the end of the summer session.

4. Mr. MARSHALL (United Kingdom) said that he was content to follow the normal practice. However, he reminded the Council that a decision in principle had been taken the previous year to dispense with resumed sessions, which usually contributed little to the Council's work. In 1976 the Council would have a great deal to do, particularly in connexion with item 6 of the agenda for the sixty-first session, and it would have to consider the report on rationalization which it was to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session.

* Resumed from the 1982nd meeting.