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President: Mr. Hans ENGEN (Norway).

Present:

The representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Greece, Indonesia, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

Observers from the following countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Hungary, Mexico, Philippines, Poland.

The 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.

In the absence of the President, Mr. Trujillo (Ecuador), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 5

**Economic development of under-developed countries (E/2816, E/2832, E/2845, E/L.703)
(continued)**

STUDIES ON ATOMIC ENERGY AS A FACTOR IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (E/2845, E/L.703)

1. Mr. LODGE (United States of America) said that nuclear energy was bound to play an important part in future world economic development. The first atomic reactor had been put into operation only thirteen years previously, and it was little over two years since President Eisenhower had presented to the United Nations his programme for a world effort to harness that new source of power for construction rather than destruction.¹ Miracles could not be expected overnight but impressive progress had been made by science and industry in using atomic energy to improve man's life. The greatest contribution of atomic energy to human welfare would probably be in the generation of electric power. From the purely economic point of view none of the projected atomic power plants would be able to compete immediately with conventional power plants. The installation of atomic power plants was an extremely costly process. Nevertheless, valuable economic and technical information would be obtained

from the functioning of such plants, which would be helpful to everyone interested in the potential uses of atomic energy for economic development, and particularly to the less developed countries, with which the United States intended to share the information so acquired. Once the economic advantages of nuclear power had become manifest, a relatively large proportion of new power plants would be nuclear. The economic implications of nuclear power development were obviously enormous, both for the United States and for other countries. The rate of development would necessarily vary from country to country according to the conditions in each. In developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy the United States had been following the road of international co-operation on the basis of the principles laid down by President Eisenhower. It was in that spirit of co-operation that the United States was making both facilities and information available to other countries. In February 1956, for example, it had been announced that the United States would make available 20,000 kilogrammes of uranium-235 for use in nuclear reactors in other countries. As far as information was concerned, forty complete atomic energy libraries had been sent abroad, each containing more than 200,000 pages of information, and over 200 students from other countries had come to the United States for training or study in nuclear development.

2. That form of co-operation was also to be observed within the United Nations. The previous summer the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy had been held at Geneva and in the autumn a scientific committee had been set up to study problems of radiation. The draft statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency had recently been approved and a conference was to be held in the autumn to take final action with regard to the setting up of that new agency of the United Nations. The link between that new agency and the Economic and Social Council would be close; the agency would submit reports to the Council on matters within its competence. In view of the rapid progress being made in nuclear technology and in arrangements for sharing the benefits of technology, the Council should embark forthwith upon a programme of studies on economic aspects of atomic energy development. To begin with, the Secretary-General might draw up a report on the possible applications of atomic energy for the promotion of economic development. His report would include an appraisal of the studies and publications on the potential economic uses of nuclear energy which were already available. It would also include reports on work being done by the specialized agencies and discussions by the regional economic commissions on the subject; also studies originating from Governments or private research. The advantages of such an inventory of studies on the possible applications of atomic energy for economic development were self-evident.

3. Nobody could foresee exactly where the atomic revolution would lead. There could be no doubt, however, that countries in all stages of economic develop-

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighth Session, Plenary Meetings, 470th meeting.*

ment would benefit from advances in nuclear technology. Indeed, without that new source of energy the world might face a decline in living standards. For countries which had not yet completed their industrialization, atomic power would create many new opportunities to shorten the development process.

4. In many cases, atomic power would supply needed energy where water power, coal or oil were lacking. Atomic power could multiply muscle power approximately 25,000 times. In the face of those potentialities, it was more than ever essential that nations should work together for the good of the human race. Atomic energy increased man's power for good or evil beyond anything that had been dreamed of in the past. International collaboration was, therefore, all the more essential and the Economic and Social Council had a significant role to play in it.

5. Mr. FIRESTONE (Canada) wished first to pay a tribute to the United States for its action in connexion with the use of atomic energy as a factor in economic development. The Canadian delegation, which was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution before the Council (E/L.703), unreservedly supported the programme contemplated. Much remained to be done on the subject of atomic energy and its application to economic development, in particular with regard to technology and financing, and a number of problems would have to be solved before atomic energy could become a factor in economic development. Canada was taking an active part in the establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency and attached particular importance to the help that the developed countries could give the under-developed countries. The available resources should be utilized in the interests of those countries which needed them most.

6. In his view, the joint draft resolution was satisfactory and deserved the Council's support.

7. Mr. GOZARD (France) said that atomic energy, which had made its first appearance in a terrifying form, had, at the Geneva Conference, been once again the object of universal attention, and it would apparently remain so. It was essential, therefore, to determine what part atomic energy was to play in economic development and every field that concerned the living and working conditions of mankind. Economic development still depended on investments, raw materials, technical equipment and the amount of vocational training as well as on international co-operation. Arriving as it had just in time to replace the conventional sources of energy which were gradually being exhausted, atomic energy had removed the danger of a power shortage, which might have been catastrophic. It was by no means certain that atomic energy could constitute the sole source of power everywhere and for all time, and it would accordingly seem wise to continue to expand studies of other new sources of power, a matter which was the subject of the French proposal (E/2849 and Add.1) that the Council was to consider later. Subject to those reservations, the role atomic energy could play in economic development would depend essentially on its cost. At the current time atomic energy was considerably more expensive than energy from conventional sources but it should be borne in mind that with technological progress its cost price was being constantly reduced. A comparison with cost prices of conventional forms of power in remote areas which were poor in coal and oil would even at present be favourable to atomic energy and it was already possible to perceive

a few certain facts with regard to the future of that form of power. It was a fact, for example, that as the number of secondary reactors increased, a kilogramme of uranium, which currently produced the equivalent of only 2,000 to 3,000 kilogrammes of coal, could, within a few years, produce the equivalent of perhaps one thousand times that amount. Nevertheless, the age of free power had not yet arrived, for fuel was not the only factor in the picture; at most it accounted for barely 25 per cent of the price of the power produced, the other 75 per cent representing investments, which were considerable and could not easily be reduced.

8. Atomic energy should open new possibilities for industry in a very wide variety of fields. The use of radio-elements was becoming more general. They were new products, which could be used in many ways; they sometimes allowed of the production of new substances and they invariably led to new methods by considerably simplifying the industrial process and thereby speeding up the rate of industrial development, by increasing consumption and by reducing cost prices. As a result of the development of atomic energy, some branches of industry had had to go to great lengths in order to meet the needs of nuclear techniques. The possibility of producing electricity without transport charges or transmission losses in any region, and particularly in regions where the construction of grids was out of the question, would stimulate the dispersal and decentralization of industry. It would help to solve the power problem of under-developed areas which lacked conventional sources of energy. Mention should also be made of the technical progress that the widespread use of isotopes and the application of atomic energy in propulsion work might bring about. The general living and working conditions of mankind could thus be gradually improved.

9. The application of atomic energy required scientists, technicians and increasingly specialized and highly qualified workers in ever-increasing numbers. The problem of recruiting qualified workers hampered the development of atomic industries. Steps should therefore be taken to improve technical training, a matter which would require the development of other forms of education on which it depended, such as elementary education; that could not fail to have profound social consequences. Moreover, research was being conducted which, if successful, would greatly change the living and nutrition standards of mankind. Radio-active isotopes had already been used extensively in medical research work, for purposes of analysis and diagnosis, and in medical care. Technical agronomical studies were also well advanced, at least at the laboratory stage; they were designed to produce new hybrids and new strains of plants possessing additional qualities of resistance to the elements, or having higher yields. Lastly, the food preserving and freezing industries would soon experience competition as a result of new methods of preserving food, such as sterilization by radiation.

10. In view of the vast prospects it opened up, atomic energy could not remain outside the concern of the Council. It was with that in mind that the United States had sponsored the draft resolution before the Council (E/L.703). France had decided to associate itself with the draft resolution. In addition to the special agreements it had concluded with countries in various parts of the world, it would welcome experts who wished to complete their training and would co-operate in any study or project relating to the field of atomic energy.

It was aware that only through close co-ordination would the world be able to enjoy all the benefits of that new source of power. That was why France was trying to establish very practical co-operation with the Governments of neighbouring countries, which would be sufficiently comprehensive to enable them to work at the theoretical and the practical level as a single unit.

11. Mr. PENTEADO (Brazil) felt that the possibility of using atomic energy to promote the economic development of under-developed countries, emphasized at the Geneva Conference, was very encouraging. The Council was being asked to take a first step which, in the opinion of his delegation, was imperative. In the draft resolution (E/L.703) under consideration the Secretary-General was requested to prepare a report on the possible applications of atomic energy as a means of promoting economic development. The value of a report of that kind would depend on the scope of the Secretary-General's powers of inquiry and it was quite possible that at its twenty-third session the Council would have before it a far-reaching study. After analysing the studies already made and those in process of being carried out, the Secretary-General should perhaps examine the problem as a whole, in the following way: in the first place he should determine the economic structure of the under-developed countries from the angle of the various possible sources of power that could be developed; secondly, he should specify the cases in which atomic energy would be the most economical form of energy for development; thirdly, he should study the whole question of using atomic energy for the promotion of economic development from the standpoint of the funds available and, more specifically, the foreign currency available. The last aspect was all the more important because atomic installations were very expensive, particularly at the outset, so that for want of adequate funds the under-developed countries might not be able to take advantage of the possibilities offered by that new form of energy. The Secretary-General should bear in mind the part that the International Atomic Energy Agency would be called upon to play.

12. The draft resolution before the Council was extremely important but it might be advisable to extend its scope by requesting the Secretary-General to go a little beyond the analysis of the available studies.

13. Mr. LOUTFI (Egypt) said that his country had always supported the efforts and decisions in favour of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, ever since the President of the United States had stated on 8 December 1953 that scientists should direct their work towards such uses.² His delegation was therefore grateful to the United States representative for his initiative in including in the Council's agenda the item on studies on atomic energy as a factor in economic development. Egypt felt that it would be very useful if the Economic and Social Council could shoulder its part of the responsibility. The studies that had been made so far on the subject were not many and it would consequently be an excellent thing if the United Nations Secretariat, in co-operation with the specialized agencies, could submit a detailed report on the question to the Council at a future session. The application of atomic energy in industry and agriculture offered very interesting possibilities. It was of great importance to the under-developed countries in agriculture, in view of the possible use of isotopes.

14. For those reasons the Egyptian delegation would support the general ideas in the joint draft resolution (E/L.703) and, in view of the heavy responsibility laid upon the Secretariat in the preparation of the proposed studies, it was prepared to support any proposal designed to assist the Secretariat in carrying out its task.

15. Mr. PALAMAS (Greece) said that the Greek delegation welcomed the United States proposal that studies be made concerning the possible use of atomic energy as a factor in economic development. Atomic energy was a new source of power which might well revolutionize economic production throughout the world; thanks to it, the peoples of the world could hope to improve their living conditions. The Greek delegation wished to stress the moral and political significance of the step taken by the atomic Powers with a view to placing their knowledge and their technical resources at the service of humanity. Atomic energy must be used for constructive purposes and a study should be made immediately of the economic implications of the scientific progress achieved in that field.

16. Greece was not in a position to make any technical contribution, but it supported the proposals contained in the five-Power draft resolution (E/L.703) and was grateful to the sponsors of that draft.

17. Mr. HASAN (Pakistan) stressed that the less-developed countries, some of whose peoples were living in tragic circumstances, were eager to share in the scientific progress related to the utilization of atomic energy as a factor in economic development. That new source of energy opened up vast possibilities for the improvement of the human lot.

18. The delegation of Pakistan therefore supported the proposals contained in the five-Power draft resolution (E/L.703). It considered it desirable however to add, at the end of paragraph 1 of the operative part, the words "particularly of the under-developed countries". Some of those countries were, in fact, endeavouring to train atomic energy technicians and to install small atomic reactors. The proposed study should provide them with information concerning the opportunities available to them in that field, taking into account the limited resources at their disposal.

19. The fact that the great Powers were prepared to share their knowledge in that field with other nations was a sign of the times which warranted great hopes for the future. The delegation of Pakistan hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

20. Mr. ASMAUN (Indonesia) felt that it was the duty of the United Nations to see to it that atomic energy was used exclusively for the good of humanity. The International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy had constituted the first step towards that goal; the proposals contained in the five-Power draft resolution (E/L.703) marked another step forward.

21. It was hardly necessary to stress the vital role which atomic energy could play in the development of less-developed countries. At the Asian-African Conference held at Bandung, Indonesia and the other twenty-eight participating nations had expressed approval of the proposals initiated by the Powers concerned with regard to the utilizing of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Mr. Bhabha, the eminent Indian scientist, who had presided over the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, had

² *Ibid.*

pointed out in his opening speech that existing world reserves of uranium and thorium could provide enough energy to enable the less-developed countries to attain the same level of living as the industrialized ones, as well as to enable the peoples of the whole world to continue to improve their level of living for several decades and perhaps for several centuries. Mr. Bhabha had added that, in the industrialization of less-developed countries, atomic energy was not merely a help; it was an absolute necessity. On 12 October 1955, speaking before the First Committee, Mr. Bhabha had stressed the part that uranium and thorium could play in the development of less-developed countries and had stated that no nation or group of nations had a monopoly of atomic fuels and none was therefore in a position to impose its terms on other countries.³ Lastly, at the Geneva Conference, it had been demonstrated that, under certain conditions, electricity derived from atomic energy could already replace that which was now being obtained by means of fuels such as coal and oil. As a result of the Bandung Conference, the Asian and African countries had come to realize that the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful ends could enable them to jump several stages ahead in their development and thus reach a high degree of economic development much more rapidly than could have been foreseen.

22. The Secretary-General, when preparing the proposed report, should therefore keep in mind the needs of the under-developed countries, since atomic energy afforded an invaluable opportunity to eliminate the existing difference between the levels of living in under-developed and in industrialized countries.

23. Finally, he thanked Mr. Lodge for the explanations he had given concerning the draft resolution, which would have the support of the Indonesian delegation.

24. Mr. STIKKER (Netherlands) thanked the United States representative for his explanations concerning the results obtained in his country in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It was encouraging to note that the United States and other countries were prepared to allow less-favoured countries to benefit from their material and technical assets.

25. As the United States representative had pointed out, however, in spite of the progress which had been achieved, miracles could not be expected to occur overnight and care must be taken not to give rise to vain hopes. Atomic energy would certainly make an important contribution to economic development sooner or later. In any event, all the countries of the world should take the necessary preparatory measures, either singly or jointly. Accordingly, it would be appropriate to request the Secretariat to make the report in question or even, if it was desired to go further still, to propose the establishment of a new organ.

26. Nevertheless, as the United States representative had observed, prudence must be exercised when deciding on the first measures to be taken. The first study should be a sort of inventory of all the available information with a view to facilitating later studies.

27. The Netherlands delegation would support the five-Power draft resolution (E/L.703), in the light of the observations and explanations furnished by the United States representative.

28. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said the Council had already had to deal with

the question of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The under-developed countries had been the first to show an interest in that subject and to suggest that the Council should assist them in making use, for their economic development, of existing technical knowledge in that field. The previous year the USSR had supported a proposal concerning the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

29. The Soviet Union had already made remarkable progress in the use of atomic energy in industry. It had passed the stage of scientific experimentation and had gone on to practical achievements. It had an atomic power plant which was functioning satisfactorily. The USSR did not intend to retain a monopoly of those new methods and was prepared to co-operate on the international level in sharing its experience of the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

30. In January 1955, the Government of the Soviet Union had decided to grant other countries scientific and technical assistance and assistance in the sphere of production to help them to establish the scientific and experimental basis for the development of research in nuclear physics and for the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Several agreements had been concluded. In March 1956, an international conference had been convened in Moscow in which eleven countries had participated. That conference had resulted in the conclusion of an agreement among the participants on the setting up of a joint nuclear research institute in Moscow.

31. At one of the more recent sessions of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Soviet Union representative had expressed his Government's readiness to share its experience in the construction of industrial enterprises, power stations and irrigation systems, and in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The Economic Commission for Europe at its eleventh session had examined a proposal by the Soviet Union that an organ should be set up within the framework of that Commission to study and consider co-operation by European countries in the field of atomic energy.

32. The development of international co-operation in regard to the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes could and should be directed towards the industrial and economic development of the under-developed countries and particularly of countries with poorly developed power resources. The Soviet Union for its part was prepared to increase the number of countries with which it could co-operate in the exchange of experience and in the provision of assistance in regard to the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

33. In the opinion of the scientists who had taken part in the Geneva Conference, the achievement of an era of prosperity by the use of atomic energy was no longer a remote dream but could become a reality in the relatively near future. Progress achieved in that field should be applied, not to military, but to peaceful ends.

34. The Council should encourage the exchange of relevant information, meetings of scientists and co-operation among scientific institutions and research institutions. Favourable conditions must be created which would enable all States to make use of atomic energy without binding them with military and political conditions.

35. The Soviet Union delegation favoured the five-Power draft resolution (E/L.703) on the whole. It was incumbent upon the Council to take the initiative in

³ *Ibid.*, Tenth Session, First Committee, 760th meeting.

that field. In view of the importance of the question, however, the draft resolution should be adopted unanimously, and, to that end, some amendment of the proposed text was desirable. The USSR delegation, without putting forward any formal proposal, had suggested to the United States delegation that a sentence should be inserted in the draft resolution requesting the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its twenty-third session detailed proposals for the convening in 1957 of a scientific and technical conference on the practical use of atomic energy to promote the economic development of under-developed countries. The United States delegation had replied that it would examine the proposal and express its opinion later. Judging by the statements made by a number of representatives of under-developed countries, the majority of them would favour such an amendment.

36. Mr. STANOVNIK (Yugoslavia) recalled that Yugoslavia had always attached great importance to the role of nuclear energy in economic development and industrialization; it had submitted several proposals on that subject at the nineteenth session of the Council.⁴ At that time most of the delegations had considered the measures proposed by Yugoslavia to be premature, but the apparently general support for the five-Power draft resolution (E/L.703) was an encouraging sign. Since the nineteenth session, many States had begun to take measures in that field, and international organizations, particularly the regional commissions and some of the specialized agencies, were already showing an interest in the subject.

37. The Yugoslav delegation felt, therefore, that the time had come for the Council too to consider the problem. True, an International Atomic Energy Agency was soon to be established, but it would deal only with the scientific and technical aspects of the utilization of nuclear energy and not with its economic aspects. The United States was therefore to be congratulated for having taken the initiative in requesting that the item be placed on the agenda. The Yugoslav representative thought, as did other representatives, that the Council should deal primarily with the needs of the under-developed countries, since the problem was less pressing for the highly industrialized countries, which could produce energy at lower cost by conventional methods. The United Nations should therefore supply the under-developed countries with increased technical assistance in the field of nuclear technology.

38. The Yugoslav delegation supported the five-Power draft resolution (E/L.703) in principle because it included the main items of the draft resolution that Egypt, India and Yugoslavia had presented the previous year (E/AC.6/L.119); it would probably have some specific suggestions to make when the Economic Committee considered the matter.

39. Mr. OLIVIERI (Argentina) also supported the draft resolution (E/L.703). The United Nations should devote its efforts to the study of all the areas in which nuclear energy could contribute to the welfare of mankind. Moreover, as other delegations had pointed out, particular attention should be paid to the needs of the under-developed countries.

40. Mr. SOLLI (Norway) said that Norway and the Netherlands had pooled their resources in 1951 to build a reactor and also to establish a study centre on the

peaceful uses of atomic energy where scholars from many countries met.

41. At the tenth session of the General Assembly the Norwegian representative had said that the centre was open to all countries and that the under-developed countries, in particular, should not hesitate to make use of its facilities. For that reason, Norway gave its full support to the joint draft resolution (E/L.703).

42. Mr. PSCOLKA (Czechoslovakia) recalled that at the nineteenth session, the Czechoslovak delegation had supported the draft resolution on the subject of the peaceful uses of atomic energy submitted by certain under-developed countries. Since then, many delegations had stressed the important role that nuclear energy could play in the development of under-developed countries. Czechoslovakia was therefore prepared wholeheartedly to support the five-Power draft resolution and hoped that the sponsors would accept the Soviet Union's suggestion concerning the holding of a conference.

43. Czechoslovakia had always been in favour of international co-operation in the scientific field, for such co-operation was one of the best ways of establishing friendly relations among nations. It had for that reason participated actively in the Geneva Conference and in the discussions on the establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency; it had also agreed to be a member of the Scientific Committee established by the General Assembly (resolution 913 (X)). As the USSR representative had indicated, Czechoslovakia had also participated recently in the Moscow conference organized for the purpose of creating a nuclear research institute. With the assistance of the USSR, including not only technical assistance but also supplies of necessary technical equipment, it had undertaken the construction of electro-nuclear plants, whose production would, in the period from 1965 to 1975, meet the additional need for electricity and successively replace some old conventional installations. One fairly large electro-nuclear plant would be put into operation within the next five years. In view of its interest in that field Czechoslovakia would support all measures taken at the international level to utilize nuclear energy for economic development.

44. The PRESIDENT invited the representative of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (IFCTU) to address the Council.

45. Mr. THORMANN (International Federation of Christian Trade Unions) said that the IFCTU welcomed the initiative taken by the United States. The Geneva Conference had made it abundantly clear that atomic energy would gradually replace all the conventional sources of energy and render inestimable benefits to mankind. Nuclear energy would play an important part in the development of under-developed countries, many of which did not yet produce enough energy by the conventional procedures. No doubt some time would elapse before those prospects could be realized, but it did not appear to be too early to take all practical measures in order to gain as clear a picture as possible of the possibilities and limitations of the atom.

46. The IFCTU was very much aware of the tremendous effect which the rapid development of atomic energy could not fail to have on existing institutions. It felt that a social as well as an economic revolution was imminent, which would not be confined to Europe and the United States but would encompass the entire world and have more far-reaching consequences than

⁴ See E/AC.6/SR.170 and 171, E/AC.6/L.119 and E/AC.6/L.120/Rev.1.

the revolution caused in the nineteenth century by the introduction of steam and electricity as new sources of energy. It was therefore not too soon to study all the aspects, social as well as economic, of the question.

47. The United Nations and the specialized agencies would be called upon to play an increasingly important role in that area. The IFCTU was glad that an international agency would soon be created, and it noted with satisfaction the activities of the Scientific Committee on the study of atomic radiation. That phase of the subject was a matter of concern to trade unions, whose members were already working or would be working in the future in atomic energy installations.

48. The IFCTU hoped that the second international conference for the exchange of technical information regarding the peaceful uses of atomic energy, which was to be held in two to three years' time, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 912 (X), would devote some of its attention to the question of the economic and social repercussions of atomic energy, and that the Council might make such a recommendation to the General Assembly.

49. The IFCTU hoped also that the joint draft resolution (E/L.703) would receive the unanimous support of the members of the Council and that it would make the beginning of important research projects on all aspects of atomic energy as a factor in economic development.

50. The PRESIDENT invited the representative of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) to address the Council.

51. Miss KAHN (World Federation of Trade Unions) stressed the interest felt by trade-unionists in the problem of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, particularly for the economic development of comparatively under-developed countries. She recalled that at the Geneva Conference in 1955 the WFTU had reaffirmed its support of close international co-operation in that field and had appealed to countries which were already producing atomic energy to place their resources and scientific knowledge at the disposal of other coun-

tries. The debates at the tenth session of the General Assembly and the negotiations recently held in Washington on the draft statute for an International Atomic Energy Agency were evidence that international agencies would have an important part to play.

52. The Council should study all the implications of that great scientific development; not only the economic aspects, but also the human ones. The necessity of a comprehensive approach had already been pointed out in several quarters, and the Scientific Committee established at the tenth session of the General Assembly (resolution 913 (X)) was considering that problem. Presumably the new International Atomic Energy Agency would also consider the question, as the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organisation were doing. The task before the Council went beyond the scientific field and involved the possibilities of utilizing atomic energy for development.

53. The recommendation made in the joint draft resolution (E/L.703) concerning the preparation of a report on the possible applications of atomic energy as a means of promoting economic development was a valuable one. However, the WFTU felt that before the full exploitation of atomic power resources was undertaken, a study should be made of all approaches to the problem and due weight given to the problem of the safety of workers and communities. All the dangers inherent in new atomic techniques would have to be eliminated before those techniques could be applied to the areas of critical need, namely, the under-developed areas.

54. In view of its concern with the entire problem of development of new energy and material resources, the WFTU supported the general purposes of the proposal submitted by France (E/2849 and Add.1). The WFTU reiterated the suggestion it had made at the Geneva Conference, namely, that the international trade-union organizations should be consulted when the United Nations and specialized agencies proceeded to draft proposals for the utilization of atomic energy for productive purposes.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.