

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL****CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**E/P.V./1
25 May 1946
English
Unrestricted

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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Hunter College, New York
10:30 a.m. Saturday 25 May 1946

PRESIDENT: Sir Ramaswami Mudalier

PRESIDENT: The Economic and Social Council is in session. Mr. Winant.

MR. WINANT: Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General, it is with the greatest pleasure that I personally welcome you and the Members of the Council to my country and the opportunity to enjoy with you in the work that lies before us. I have the honor of reading to you a message from the President of the United States.

"The opening of this second session of the Economic and Social Council stirs the hearts of the common people all over the world. You can make the peace a reality for them. As you begin your deliberations, I extend to you the heartfelt welcome of this country and the sincere wishes of all the American people for your success.

"While the Security Council stands guard against new threats to peace, the Economic and Social Council mobilized the constructive forces of mankind for the victories of peace. We did not struggle to prevent the domination of the world by the Axis powers, only to accept hunger, disease, poverty and insecurity in a world made free by brave men. Your task is to achieve freedom from want, to encourage production, to help to open up transport and clear communications and to assure higher standards of living. It is for you to promote a fuller recognition of the dignity and work of the human person and to advance fundamental rights of man throughout the world. To this great task, the United States pledges its full support.

HARRY S. TRUMAN"

PRESIDENT: Members of the Economic and Social Council, I should like, first of all, to extend a hearty welcome to you on this, the second session of the Economic and Social Council. I should like also, on my own behalf and on behalf of every one of you, to extend to you, Mr. Secretary-General, who have found it possible to attend for your first time our meeting, a most hearty welcome. You have had a very strenuous task before you during the last few weeks. You have had to find a temporary habitation for the organs of the United Nations. And may I say, sir, that in the choice that you have made of this particular building, there is something extremely appropriate for the work of the Economic and Social Council; in particular, is intimately connected with the conditions which will have to be faced by what is now the younger generation which, in the course of time, shall have the benefits or the results of such work as this Council is able to do during the next few years.

The Secretary-General has had, apart from the search for habitation, a very strenuous task placed before him. He had to organize a staff of secretarial ^{workers} experts who will have to carry on the duties that resolve on them through the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, in particular. At the last session held in London of the Economic and Social Council, members will remember that the Council, as a whole, was particularly anxious not to overburden the Secretariat in the initial stages, when still the organization had to be built up, with too much work. But, in spite of all our desire to help the Secretary-General, we found it impossible to avoid placing on him responsibilities for finding secretarial assistance for a number of commissions which had to be convened and which, we felt, ^{the} course of events required urgently to be convened. I have had the opportunity of studying the work of these commissions, and particularly the assistance which the secretarial staff of the Secretary-General had to give to them. These reports will come in due course before the Economic and Social Council, but I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you, Mr. Secretary-General, and the very able staff which you have so easily -- not easily -- but which you were so readily able to build up to help these commissions in their work. I hope that after my

short speech, you will be in a position to tell the Council what work your secretarial staff has been able to do.

Members of the Council, this is the second session of the Economic and Social Council and we are meeting for the first time in the United States which, according to the resolutions of the General Assembly, is going to be the permanent habitation of the United Nations and of the Economic and Social Council. My mind on this occasion naturally goes back to the task which those who framed the Charter under San Francisco in the United States and of the atmosphere that prevailed on that occasion, which helped us very greatly to draft a Charter and make it a Charter which all of the 51 Nations found it possible to sign.

The draft, particularly of the Economic and Social Council, was a very difficult task to perform, but a task in which enthusiasm was the most prevalent feature, a task in which they realized that the hopes of world peace depended upon the manner in which the economic and social problems facing the world and individual nations could be solved. To accomplish this task they devised the various provisions in the Charter, and in the spirit in which they devised those provisions, and in the manner in which those provisions are to be worked by the Economic and Social Council and its various organs, ultimately lies the hope of peace and security in this world.

The great message which has been just now read from the President of this great State confirms and expresses in a unique manner the hopes that are built on the work of this Council and its subsidiary bodies, the hopes are that / shared by large masses of people in every country, hopes which, if frustrated in any way, could mean nothing but the direst calamity to the whole world.

I venture to think, fellow Delegates, that the progress that has been so far made by the Economic and Social Council and the auspices that can be seen about this work mean that the future is certainly not going to be one of gloom. There have been many critics in various countries who have already begun to suggest that the program of work undertaken by the Economic and Social Council may not be realized, that it is too ambitious, that the times are not opportune for the carrying out of these great fundamental provisions which can secure to the world, peace, harmony and progress. I venture to think that there are always occasions when a few prophets of woe can find publicity for whatever they say, especially if it is of a nature that is gloomy and that is pessimistic. But looking broadly at the state of the world, taking into consideration all those factors which are yet to be conquered to make for complete harmonious progress, one yet feels that the progress that has been so far made is not incalculable and that in the future we can rely on building up a world that is made secure for peace and progress.

The task that awaits the Economic and Social Council is essentially to build up conditions which will make for that peace and for that progress.

The Economic and Social Council is certainly a small group of States, only eighteen of the present fifty-one member nations of the United Nations. But it is still a Council, in the first place, that has been elected by the free choice of the fifty-one nations. It therefore has a position which is unique, which is derived from the great Assembly of Nations which has signed the Charter and which can therefore, to a certain extent, claim to voice the public opinion, or the opinion of the Governments of all the fifty-one Nations.

But apart from this, there is another fact which has to be remembered which gives to the work of the Economic and Social Council and its various Commissions and integrated organizations a source of power which has not been fully realized. In the course of this session, which is a continuation of the organizational work that has been undertaken in the first session in London, one of the most important tasks of the Economic and Social Council will be to bring into relationship with the United Nations the various specialized agencies or inter-governmental organizations - the International Labor Organization, the International Monetary Fund and Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the United Nations Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization which has been recently established. I believe that this is one of the most important tasks that lies before us at the present session, to enter into arrangements with these various organizations, to prepare draft agreements in consultation with their negotiating committees, and to place those draft agreements for the approval of the General Assembly when it meets in September. When this is accomplished, it will be found that the Economic and Social Council is working not only through its own body, the Council itself, not merely through the various Commissions and Sub-Commissions which it will establish, but even more so through the specialized organizations, these inter-governmental bodies which will be brought into relationship with it.

The Economic and Social Council primarily will be the body which will coordinate, so far as possible, the activities of these various inter-governmental organizations, and with the help of the General Assembly, it

hopes to coordinate the policies also of these inter-governmental organizations. When, therefore, it is remembered that the work of the Council has to be carried on through these various bodies, there is no room for thinking that a small Council of only a limited number of States cannot accomplish, through various methods, inter-governmental agencies in particular, the attainment and achievement of those purposes which have been set out in the Charter as the main objective of the Economic and Social Council: the raising of the standards of living, the seeing to it that the dignity and the work of the human being is properly realized, the establishment, in due course, of fundamental human rights, and the improving of the status of women.

It is true that these are not going to be accomplished in a very short space of time; it is true some of them will take a much longer time than others; it is equally true that in trying to achieve these things, we shall come across obstacles of various kinds, difficulties of differing and different natures. But the goal is prescribed: the ideal is set out, and I venture to believe that this Council and the integrated inter-governmental organizations, and its Commissions and Sub-Commissions will be able to advise the nations and the General Assembly how to carry out these purposes and will be able, finally, to achieve them at no distant time.

I was speaking of inter-governmental organizations, but I think it has been clearly established, in the discussions at San Francisco, and indeed in all the discussions that took place before San Francisco in various countries, between all thinking men and women, that the ultimate sanction for progress is in the combined wisdom of the common man and woman, that people at large must take an interest in these matters, that they should be educated as to their rights and even more as to their duties, and that it is the force of public opinion in each country, and ultimately the force of public opinion in world affairs that can enable us to achieve any of these ideals which have been set out for us. The Charter takes due notice of this particular phase, this particular requirement for achieving what we have set out to do, and the Charter therefore specially provides that the Economic and Social Council should consult, wherever possible, non-governmental organizations of an

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international character and such national organizations as it may appropriately consult to help it in its work.

This Council, I know, and I am speaking for every Member of this Council, attaches the very highest and greatest importance to such consultations with non-official organizations.

We shall be glad to receive and to study any representation that any non-governmental organization may make on any subject on which it has got special knowledge and specific interest and which concerns the work of the Economic and Social Council. We shall go further, if the deliberations of the Committee now in session are accepted by the Economic and Social Council, we shall go further and in the case of certain non-governmental organizations of an international character, which by their importance, by their membership, by the part that they play in the integrated economic and social life of the country and of the world, have a specific contribution to make, we shall go further and try to see whether the advice of such non-governmental organizations may not be more carefully studied and a greater opportunity given for such non-governmental organizations to have their views expressed, and for the Economic and Social Council, in turn, to consult them more freely. That also is a part of the work which at this session the Economic and Social Council proposes to undertake, and which, I hope, it will accomplish.

And so, Fellow Delegates, with the close integration of inter-governmental organizations in close consultation with non-governmental organizations, with the help of the advice which we shall have from our commissions and our sub-commissions on various matters, composed, as they will be, mostly of experts, we shall have a volume of opinion to enable us, to guide us, and to help us, in achieving our task of making proper recommendations to the General Assembly where such recommendations are required.

I should like to take this opportunity of just very briefly thanking the commissions and Members that have attended the various commissions that have been established. Men and women have come on short notice, traveling great distances, to attend the meetings of commissions of our first session. I have had an opportunity of reading the reports of these commissions and sub-commissions, and let me say at once: I have been struck, markedly struck, by the enthusiasm, the devotion, and the service they have put in the work of these commissions. These reports will come up for review before the Council, and the Council will have a further opportunity of thanking the Members for what they have done and of hoping that their task will be undertaken in the same spirit in the future. That, in short, is the kind of work which faces

the Economic and Social Council.

May I say one word in conclusion? We have to deal with the matters which affect the economic and social life of the people in all parts of the world. We have to see to it that in our recommendations we have a realistic approach to their problems. We have to see to it that if we emphasize fundamental rights, we cannot ignore fundamental duties, either. We have to remember and to remind others that if we ask for privileges and immunities, we must also see the other side of the picture and try to emphasize the responsibilities and obligations which naturally arise from the conferment of those privileges and immunities. But in all these tasks, though it is a question of securing the material comfort and the material progress and of rehabilitating the dignity of the human person, we have to remember also that there is one factor which we cannot forget, one spirit which we must have in coming to our deliberations, - the moral factor which really must be behind all deliberations of all Delegations and of all countries, of all organizations, inter-governmental or non-governmental, and of all commissions and sub-commissions. Call it what you will, there is a force behind it all which is animating everybody, which is moving the great world forces which are at work, and I venture to hope that in all the deliberations which we or any of the bodies will make, that force will not be forgotten. There is something beyond mere physical matter, which by its attractions and repulsions makes for the world. There is something far beyond the ~~current~~ unity and disunity which govern the problems of the world and the forces that are at work in the world. In the belief that our own Council, and the organizations which have to work through, on behalf of, and to aid this Council, this factor will not be forgotten, I venture to conclude my welcome to you Members of the Economic and Social Council.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Mr. President and Members of the Economic and Social Council. May I first of all, Mr. President, thank you for the friendly and understanding words you have addressed to the staff of the United Nations and to me, and then on my own behalf and on behalf of the United Nations Secretariat, I wish you all welcome to the second meeting of the Economic and Social Council.

To you who have arrived here for the first time at the interim seat of the United Nations, I may add a welcome to our new, if temporary, home here at Hunter College. I hope that you will be able to make yourselves comfortable -- certainly comfortable enough to accomplish the work which faces you. I think that you will meet with difficulties both about documents, transportation, housing, et cetera, but I think we will settle all our common difficulties.

As it gathers here today, the Economic and Social Council commands the attention of the entire world. Everything that you do will be the object of universal attention. Any failure to fulfill the expectations of the world will likewise be the object of comment and attention. You carry on your shoulders the hope of all humanity.

For the first time in the history of international relations the nations of the world have set up one common body to consider and, when possible, to rectify the economic and social problems that beset mankind. By doing so they have shown their determination to make human welfare one of the first objectives of their collaboration. They have recognized the fact that misery is one of the fundamental causes of war and that their ultimate success in preventing war will depend upon their ability to spread material and social wellbeing wherever people live. Even in normal times the creation of the Economic and Social Council would have been recognized as an enlightened advance in human relations. Today, as humanity struggles in the bog created by the most universal and destructive of all wars, the existence of this body is absolutely necessary to the world.

The immediate problem facing us in the economic and social field at this moment is to undo the work of war as far as we can and to make life possible again for the people who have become destitute because of war. Under the leadership of the Economic and Social Council and with the close collaboration,

of its allied agencies. It is our determination to confront this job in all its phases quickly and effectively. In the sacrifices and energy required this task is equal to the all-compelling job of making war itself.

Beyond this immediate and critical problem, which will burden us for many years, as your President has just said, we have a great composite of other fundamental problems which we have inherited from history. The world looks to the United Nations and to the Economic and Social Council for effective leadership in solving a thousand and one social and economic troubles which mankind has never been able to solve by individual, community or national effort. Without neglecting the immediate, critical problems, we will undertake this neverending, evergrowing struggle to lessen the basic social and economic troubles of people everywhere.

We must recognize that this struggle will never end. While old problems will be solved, new problems will arise. The advance of science and the whims of nature and circumstances make that certain. But we are agreed to tackle our problems as we know them with stubborn and relentless energy. We will cross the other bridges when we come to them.

In greeting you today, it is not my purpose to explain the full program of the Economic and Social Council and of its allied and subsidiary organs and agencies. May I just add some words to what your President has said about the program before you today. I will only say that obviously much of the work until now has been organizational. During the course of this second meeting of the Economic and Social Council, you will have to perfect your organization as far as possible. Relations between the specialized agencies and the central organs of the United Nations will have to be defined by specific agreements. It is the privileged position of the Economic and Social Council to consider economic and social policy at the highest level and to coordinate world economic and social activities. Thus, the negotiations with the specialized agencies will be of the utmost importance.

Another important mission of the Economic and Social Council during this session will, in my opinion, be to consider the establishment of a world health organization and an organization in charge of refugees and displaced persons. The

functions and immediate tasks of the Commissions of the Economic and Social Council will have to be stipulated so that these Commissions can proceed with important and urgent work.

Much preparatory work has been done. The preparatory commission and conferences held in London during the first meeting of the Assembly have provided you with a preliminary outline of your duties and of your organizational structure.

Beginning on April 29, the nuclear commissions of the Economic and Social Council met to prepare their reports to the Council. In these reports recommendations are made regarding the work which they suggest should be undertaken in the immediate future, and their relations with other agencies and organizations. I think you will find their reports constructive and factual, brimming with practical suggestions for immediate and long-term action in many fields. At the same time they are characterized by a degree of imagination and enlightenment worthy of the aims and purposes of the United Nations. It may be suggested that some groups have exhibited too much imagination. I would reply that this is a time for fresh thoughts and new ideas. It is also the time to revive good ideas which have been suppressed in the past by reaction and prejudice. We want people to feel free to express and to fight for these thoughts and ideas.

Again, some reports may be criticized on the ground that they contain impractical suggestions. The answer to this is that we must keep our feet on the ground but that we must keep reaching for the stars. There are enough practical suggestions to satisfy anybody, if only we can put them into practice. Proposals which you will consider at this meeting cover the whole field of social and economic problems. Many of them have to do with immediate problems.

You will find that the nuclear Economic and Employment Commission has drawn your attention to the urgent question of the world food shortage and the problems which will arise if the magnificent activities of UNRRA are brought to an untimely end. The world effort to relieve famine has been tremendous. We must make absolutely sure that this effort is maintained and increased until the present crisis has passed. Late reports from southeastern Europe and other

areas indicate that drought is aggravating the crisis which already exists. We can see no end to this crisis and we must face it squarely.

The Commission has also concerned itself with the problem of immediate reconstruction in the devastated areas. With great farsightedness it has also considered the fact that many countries which are now arising from the ruins of war plan, in the process of revival, to reform their economies, thus giving rise to new problems in their relations with other countries.

In deference to the immediate shortage of goods which nations need, it has made recommendations for the continuation of a scheme of allocation for all goods in short supply, including food. At the same time it aims, as a matter of principle, at the opening up of trade and commerce between the nations. Its report will merit the attention of this body and of the world at large.

The Statistical Commission promises to be one of the key units in our whole organization, and that nuclear commission has gone about its work with a full sense of its responsibility. Speed in considering its report will be important.

The nuclear Transport and Communications Commission has made valuable suggestions for the regulation of the Economic and Social Council's relations with the international organizations which operate in its field. It has recommended the creation of a world shipping organization and has reached interesting conclusions regarding the way in which inland transport can be helped to return to normal.

In the social field, you have been provided with a fundamental study of the tasks which lie ahead by the Temporary Social Commission. The exhaustive report which it has prepared provides a handbook for the study of our purposes and our possibilities in this all important area of United Nations activity.

The nuclear commission on Human rights has distinguished itself with a comprehensive report on this sweeping subject and has made suggestions regarding the proposed International Bill of Rights.

The Subcommittee on the Status of Women has submitted to the nuclear commission on human rights an exposition of purposes and ideals which go straight toward the expressed purpose of the Charter in recognizing the equality of man and woman.

In proposing the establishment of the subcommission on the Freedom of Information and the Press, the nuclear commission on human rights has recognized and attempted to transform into concrete action the fact that "freedom of information is one of the fundamental rights of human beings".

It has been the clear conviction of the men and women who have formulated these propositions that sound and decent

ideas must be placed permanently before the world so that they may gather the support which is needed to introduce them into the actual workings of our civilization.

They recognize the fact that the world cannot be reformed in five minutes and they have not allowed this fact to dismay them.

The Secretariat of the United Nations has played its part in the work of the commissions by providing technical assistance, But it is already clear from our experience that the future work of the Economic and Social Council will require expansion of the Secretariat.

It is gratifying to the Secretariat that Members of the United Nations have responded so whole-heartedly to the work of the Economic and Social Council. The appointment of permanent representatives of great capacity and international reputation, has served to strengthen the Council immeasurably. The establishment of permanent missions to the Economic and Social Council/or to the United Nations, by all of the eighteen member countries would greatly assist the Council and Secretariat in dealing with the vast amount of work which lies ahead.

In conclusion, I want, Mr. President, as Secretary-General, to thank you all for coming here and to wish you again welcome and success. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, the next item on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

You will find that the Report of the Technical Preparatory Committee for the health conference has been placed at your disposal. The Economic and Social Council has promised to consider this report and make any suggestions on the agenda with respect to the International Health Conference. This Conference has been called for the 19th of June in this city and therefore, it is extremely important that we should finish consideration of this report and make such observations that we wish to as early as possible. I understand that a

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report has already been circulated to all the nations which have requested to attend this conference. Any remarks that the Economic and Social Council may make on this report will be similarly circulated to all the nations.

Items 5 to 10 are reports of various committees and commissions that have been appointed. It is suggested that on Monday afternoon, the Chairmen of these commissions will present their reports and make any supplementary remarks that they decide to make on their reports.

You will find the report of the Special Committee on Refugees and Displaced Persons is put as Item 18 on the second page. That is because the Secretariat is not in receipt of this report as yet. I do very much hope that this report will be received some time in the course of next week at least.

PRESIDENT: Items 11, 12 and 13 are items which have been carried over from the agenda of the last session of the Economic and Social Council. Item 14 is an item that has been inserted, I understand, at the request of the United Kingdom Delegation. Item 15 is, again, an item that has been carried over from the last agenda. So are the two other items, 16 and 17. Item 19 is a proposal from the Belgian Delegation, but I understand that the exact terms of the proposal have not yet been received. As regards Item 20, I suggest that we follow the course that we have adopted on the last occasion, and fix a time limit within which delegations may send in any further resolutions for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council. And I suggest a deadline, the last date to be Wednesday, the 29th of this month.

MR. NOEL BAKER (UNITED KINGDOM): I only wanted to verify the date, Mr. President, but I heard it in the translation.

PRESIDENT: Yes, Wednesday, the 29th. This does not apply to any resolutions for the consideration of the report itself. It is with reference to items outside this agenda.

MR. FEONOV (USSR): Mr. President, I have one or two remarks to make on the agenda. I think I will be permitted to speak in Russian.

PRESIDENT: It is your privilege.

MR. FEONOV (USSR) (second interpretation): I have one or two points to make as regards the agenda, Mr. President. First of all, Point 14 of the Agenda: "Question of the assumption by the United Nations of the functions and powers connected with public loans issued with the assistance of the League of Nations." In the meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations in London in February, a decision was reached on the question of what functions of the League of Nations should be taken over by the United Nations. The decision involved a list of the League of Nations' functions to be assumed by the United Nations, and I do not think the question of public loans was included in that list. It seems to me, therefore, that the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the Economic and Social Council constitutes a departure from the decision of the General Assembly.

My next point concerns Point 19: "Belgian Proposal Concerning the League of Red Cross Societies." We have been told that the documents in connection

with this item are not yet prepared. It is difficult for the Soviet Delegation to agree to the inclusion of a question in the agenda of which it has no definite knowledge - of which it does not know the character - and so, I would like to suggest that when the documents are ready, the Belgian Delegation places this matter under Item 20: "Other Important Matters".

My last remark concerns Item 20. My interpretation of this item is that no such particular questions are envisaged at present, but that any delegation which wishes to place a further matter on the agenda, shall place it under this item, and the time limit for such additions to the agenda is the 29th of May.

PRESIDENT: As regards the last item, the interpretation of our Russian colleague is entirely correct.

As regards Item 14, I would like to point out that the provisional rules provide to include any item that is suggested by any Member of the United Nations. Therefore, this item has been included because one of the Members of the United Nations, and a Member of this Council, has suggested the inclusion of this item. Whether that item can be properly discussed, whether there are any objections to the discussion of this item, whether the General Assembly Resolution precludes our making a recommendation about this subject to the General Assembly, are matters which will come up properly for discussion when the item itself is taken up. The President has no right to exclude this item from the agenda at this stage and the Council will, therefore, include it in the agenda at this stage. The issues that have been raised by our Russian colleague will be proper subjects for discussion at the time when the agenda is considered.

As regards the proposal of the Belgian Delegation, it is true that the proposal has not yet come in any concrete form and whether it is Item 19 or 20, does not make any difference. I am prepared to include it under Item 20, in which case Item 20 becomes Item 19.

MR. FEONOV (USSR): May I suggest just a small correction in the translation of what I have said, Mr. President. I did not say that the inclusion

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of Paragraph 14 in the agenda would mean a departure from the decision taken by the General Assembly. I said that that would mean a reconsideration of the decision taken by the General Assembly.

MR. NOEL-BAKER (UNITED KINGDOM): Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that Mr. Feonov recognizes that our proposal under Item 14 is not a violation of an Assembly resolution. I am not quite sure, though, I would like to consider it further, that/^{it}even involves the reconsideration of what the Assembly did. As I remember, and I am speaking without the text of the Assembly Resolution before me, as I remember the work of the Assembly on this matter, it was based on the report of the Preparatory Commission. On page 118 of the Report of the Preparatory Commission, there is a paragraph which reads thus: "The Preparatory Commission believes that the foregoing recommendations cover all the parts of the Report of the Executive Committee relating to the transfer of functions, powers, and activities of the League of Nations, with the exception of paragraph 9 which deals with the assumption by the United Nations of functions and powers connected with public loans issued with the assistance of the League of Nations. The Preparatory Commission makes no recommendation on this subject; it considers that it can be brought by any interested government before the Economic and Social Council."

Now, sir, as I say, I speak from memory, the Assembly Resolution did not refer to this point at all. It may therefore be assumed, and my Government did in fact assume, that the Preparatory Commission recommendation stood open and that it was our right to put this item on the agenda in pursuance of what was there said. I do not now want to start a controversy with Mr. Feonov about it. We shall clear it up quite easily when we come to the point. And we think it is a matter of public interest which this Council would be well to consider, and we hope he may come to agree.

MR. LEBEAU (BELGIUM) (Interpretation): I wish to apologize, Mr. President for the lateness of the proposal of the Belgian Delegation under Item 19 of the agenda. This delay was due to the fact that Mr. De Housse wished, before formulating his proposal finally, to discuss it with you, Mr. President, and with the Secretariat. Owing to transport difficulties, Mr. De Housse has not yet arrived in New York. We expect him very shortly, perhaps tomorrow, and we hope to be able to formulate our proposal finally early next week.

Discussing the matter in Brussels, it was our desire to have this matter placed on the agenda and discussed by the Council, and it was therefore our

decision to give notice of this desire and ask for its conclusion on the agenda. The question of the receivability of this subject will, of course, be open to the discussion of the Council, and so I accept your interpretation, Mr. President, and agree to the transfer of this subject from Item 19 to Item 20.

PRESIDENT: May I take it then that the agenda is adopted with that understanding?

MR. FEONOV (USSR) (Second Interpretation): I want to read, Mr. President, the resolution of the General Assembly adopted in London which relates to this item of our agenda. It seems to me that this resolution of the General Assembly supports the view that the Soviet Delegation have already expressed here... "The Council should on or before the dissolution of the League, assume and continue provisionally the work hitherto done by the ^{following} League departments: The Economic Financial and Transit Department, particularly the research and statistical work; the Health Section, particularly the epidemiological service; the Opium Section and the Secretariats of the permanent central Opium Board and Supervisory Bdy. 2. The General Assembly requests that the Secretary-General make provision for taking over and maintaining in operation the library and archives and for completing the League of Nation's treaty series. 3. The General Assembly considered that it would also be desirable for the Secretary-General to engage for the work referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, on appropriate terms, such Members of the experienced personnel by whom it is at present being performed as the Secretary-General may select."

That is all, Mr. President, and it seems to me that this decision of the General Assembly supports the views just expressed by the Soviet Delegation.

PRESIDENT: As I have already said, this is a matter which will be considered in greater detail when the actual item is taken up for consideration by the Council. I do not think it is necessary at this stage, nor are the Delegates prepared at this stage, to go into the merits of this question, as to whether or not it is in the purview of the Economic and Social Council. But the item on the agenda will remain, naturally, and these questions and issues

will be discussed when the item is taken for consideration. I take it that the agenda is accepted.

MR. CAXTON (CANADA): Mr. President, before we adjourn, I would like in the name of Canada, and I know of everyone here, to express our very warm appreciation, ~~to~~ Mr. Winant, for the message which he read in behalf of the President of the United States. And also to express to you, sir, a distinguished representative of a great country, our very warm appreciation for the inspiring way in which you described the general objectives of the Economic and Social Council.

May I also thank the Secretary-General for his description of the way in which the Council will work, and of the work generally of the United Nations.

There are some people who express disappointment at the rate of progress of organizations like this, but I think we should remember that ^{it is} only six months since the conclusion of six years of the worst war in the history of the world. We cannot recover everything at once; we cannot at once start out marching ^{for} to build the world of peace/which we are working and hoping.

There is one thing, however, that is encouraging, and that is that for the first time there is a very wide agreement on the general aims of every country, of every people, of every political party. What country in the world, what political party, what group of friends about the fireside or about the cracker barrel, would not agree on the aim that has been so often stated, full employment, high national income, and broad measures of social security. Putting this into terms which we all recognize and know about, it means a job and more than a job, it means useful opportunity for everyone able and willing to work, an income, a home, and a place in the community, to enable him to bring up his children to have with him and with others a good life.

This also is put in the words of our Charter, to promote higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development, promote solutions of international economic, social, health and related problems, promote international cultural and educational cooperation and to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. These are indeed noble aims and in this age of complex interdependent economic systems, of rocket planes and atomic bombs, we now see that we must work together or perish together.

The setting up of this Council as one of the principal organs of the United Nations is an explicit recognition by the peoples and governments of the world that it isn't enough to take measures to check aggression if at the same time we don't take steps to create the positive conditions of peace. We in our country, in Canada, have been singularly fortunate; our country hasn't been devastated by war and during the war we became for the first time, as the United States did in the last World War, a creditor nation. We carried the burden of our own war effort and extended wide measures of help to other countries. We increased our productive capacity, maintained the purchasing power of our money, and generally managed affairs so that some of the great nations of the world are now coming to our country of twelve million people for assistance. We believe that it is in the interests of Canada to give that assistance. We have come to recognize, everyone in our country, I think,

and certainly all political parties, that our prosperity depends on other people's prosperity. We have come to see that prosperity, like peace, is indivisible, and for that reason we in our country have worked with the other countries to support all the agencies of the United Nations. We believe that it is in our interest to do so. We believe, too, that the future of the world depends as much as anything else on the recognition of mutual interests on the search for enlightened self-interest. This Council is not a government. It is an instrument by which governments and peoples may exchange views and may work together. It is the greatest instrument of its kind ever created. But how it works depends not only on the Charter and the Secretariat, but also on the wide recognition of its purposes, by people, by individual people in all of our countries. And for that reason it has as one of its specialized agencies the United Nations UNESCO. The other specialized agencies will all form an important network of international cooperation, the means whereby the hopes and aspirations of common people everywhere may be achieved,--the only means by which they can be achieved, through cooperation.

In our work we can, by working together, lay the foundations of lasting peace by establishing conditions throughout the world by which we can have prosperity at home as the basis for peace abroad.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Well, Gentlemen, on behalf of the Council, it will be my privilege to send our thanks to the President for his good wishes and message.

The next meeting of the Council will be held at 10:30 on Monday, the 27th.

The meeting of the Negotiating Committee concerning Intergovernmental Organizations will be held in the other hall at 2:30 this afternoon.

The meeting is adjourned.

(The meeting adjourned at 12:40 P.M.)
