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President: Mr. Manuel PEREZ GUERRERO
(Venezuela).

AGENDA ITEM 18

Non-governmental organizations (continued) (E/4476
and Corr.1, E/4485 and Corr.1)

1. Mr. CAHEN (Belgium) said that the report of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was extremely important; it contained provisions of a constitutional nature and concerned a field which was of great interest to the United Nations, for experience had shown that non-governmental organizations could make a very useful contribution to the Organization's work. He was aware that the draft resolution annexed to that report was the result of a compromise which had been reached with some difficulty and he did not wish to do anything that might unnecessarily endanger that compromise. However, the desire for compromise should not be allowed to jeopardize the logic and clarity of the text, or to create a situation in which the hitherto fruitful co-operation between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations might be limited by restrictive provisions whose utility had not been fully established.

2. He shared the concern expressed by the representatives of Japan and the United Kingdom (1518th meeting) about paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, and would welcome the adoption of the amendment suggested by the United Kingdom representative. He agreed with the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania that non-governmental organizations should be independent, and especially that they should be free of government influence, but that point was made quite clear in the first three sentences of paragraph 8 and the last sentence was thus unnecessary.

3. In paragraph 14, the words "reflect in a balanced way the major viewpoints or interests in these fields" could perhaps be made more explicit, although their general purport was clear.

4. He hoped that a way could be found to eliminate the contradiction in paragraph 17, which had been mentioned by a number of other speakers.

5. The question of relations between the Office of Public Information and non-governmental organizations was very important, and action in that field would undoubtedly be useful. However, his delegation, like

that of France, could not take a decision on the proposals set out in the report of the Secretary-General (E/4476 and Corr.1) until a statement of their financial implications was provided.

6. Mr. BABAA (Libya) said that his delegation could support the draft resolution in its present form, and hoped that its adoption would enable non-governmental organizations in Africa and Asia to make their views known to the Council. His delegation greatly appreciated the work which non-governmental organizations had done to further the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly in the field of human rights. However, a number of non-governmental organizations had abandoned their original goals and had become part of a huge propaganda machine designed to mislead world opinion for political purposes. Some of them, for example, were agents of international Zionism and had recently engaged in a world-wide campaign to create false arguments in favour of aggression in the Middle East. One such organization, which had an annual budget of more than \$13 million, had carried out a campaign to divert attention from the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Tel Aviv authorities. Such organizations were violating the basic principles of the United Nations.

7. Mr. FORSHELL (Sweden), speaking as Chairman of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, thanked those representatives who had expressed their appreciation of the Committee's work. He did not intend to reply to the comments made on the draft resolution at the 1518th meeting by the delegations of the United States, the United Kingdom and the United Republic of Tanzania, since they had had an opportunity to express their views in the Committee and their statements in the Council could thus be considered as explanations of vote. However, he did wish to reply to the comments made on the draft resolution by the delegations of Japan, Turkey and Belgium, which were not members of the Committee.

8. The Committee greatly regretted the tardy circulation of the Committee's report (E/4485 and Corr.1), which had been mentioned by the representative of Japan at the 1518th meeting. The delay had been unavoidable, as the heavy United Nations meeting schedule had prevented the Committee from completing its work earlier.

9. He agreed with the representative of Japan that the wording of the draft resolution might leave something to be desired in certain places. Owing to a lack of time, the members of the Committee who usually worked in languages other than English had agreed to work on the basis of an English text. That fact, combined with the considerations which had led to the adoption of Council resolution 1225 (XLII), had resulted in a compromise text which was not entirely satisfactory

in every detail but should not cause any serious difficulty if the resolution was implemented in a reasonable and intelligent manner.

10. Turning to the remarks made by the representative of Japan on specific paragraphs of the draft resolution, he said that the comment on paragraph 8, which had also been mentioned by the representative of Belgium, had been covered in his own introductory statement (1517th meeting).

11. He did not think that the words "broadly representative of major segments of population in a large number of countries", in paragraph 16 (a), would cause any great difficulty. They represented a compromise attempt by the Committee to define more clearly its interpretation of the word "represent", which had been used in Council resolution 288 B (X).

12. He had explained the apparent contradiction between the first and second sentences of paragraph 17 in his introductory statement.

13. Paragraph 36 (a) had been included as part of the effort to hammer out a compromise text and should be interpreted in the light of the political considerations which had led to the adoption of Council resolution 1225 (XLII).

14. The representative of Turkey had observed that the word "organization" was used in paragraphs 1 to 6, whereas the expression "international organization" was used thereafter. That could be explained partly by the fact that the matter of the international structure of the organization was mentioned for the first time in paragraph 7, but the change in terminology was essentially a drafting matter. It was of no particular significance and should not give rise to any difficulties of interpretation. The Turkish representative's remarks about paragraph 36 (b) had been covered in the statement made by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania at the 1518th meeting.

15. He did not think that there was any real need to change the wording of paragraph 14, as suggested by the representative of Belgium.

16. With regard to the last preambular paragraph, it might be advisable for the Council to note in its report that the arrangements set out in the draft resolution would not supersede those set out in Council resolution 288 B (X) until the review of non-governmental organizations in consultative status called for in Council resolution 1225 (XLII) had been completed.

17. Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Philippines) proposed that further consideration of the draft resolution should be postponed for a few days, in deference to the wishes of those delegations which needed more time to consult their documents.

18. Mr. WALDRON-RAMSEY (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, as far as he could remember, only one speaker—the Japanese representative—had requested additional time to consult his Government. The draft resolution had already been discussed thoroughly, both in the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and in the Council, and, in view of its heavy work schedule, the Council should vote on the draft resolution immediately, in order to save time.

19. Mr. JHA (India) said that, although his delegation normally favoured giving delegations additional time for reflection, he would be reluctant to support the Philippine proposal. It would be unwise to postpone the vote, for any attempt to amend the draft resolution might jeopardize the compromise reached in the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. As the Chairman of that body had pointed out, the resolution would be interpreted and applied in a flexible and reasonable manner.

20. Mr. ABE (Japan) said that, although he realized that many delegations wished to proceed to the vote as soon as possible, he hoped that the Council would adopt the Philippine proposal.

21. Mr. NASINOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that basically he agreed with the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania that it would be preferable to proceed to the vote immediately. However, he could support the Philippine proposal, provided that the debate was closed at the present meeting and that the vote was the first item on the agenda of the next meeting.

22. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) observed that, if the voting were to be postponed in order to enable delegations to consult their Governments, it would be illogical to close the debate at the present meeting.

23. Mr. VARELA (Panama) said that, if any delegation wished to press its oral amendments to the draft resolution, the proposals would have to be circulated in writing before the vote was taken.

24. Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said that, in view of the desirability of reaching a unanimous decision, he would not press his suggested amendments to paragraphs 8 and 17. However, he requested a separate vote on the word "other" in paragraph 17 and on paragraph 17 as a whole.

25. The PRESIDENT suggested that the debate on the item should be closed and that the vote on the draft resolution should be the first item on the agenda of the Council's next meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.