

41. Lastly, since, by its decision 41 (LVII), the Council had decided that the functions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination which were not related with the programme budget or the medium-term plan should be assumed during 1975 by the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee (PPCC), the provisional agenda of the Joint Meetings of PPCC and ACC had been included in document E/L.1657. In that connexion, the Council was requested to approve the topic for discussion at the Joint Meeting suggested in paragraph 2 on page 3.

42. Mr. BRITO (Brazil) found the provisional draft agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Council satisfactory, taking into account the amendments to which the Secretary of the Council had drawn attention.

43. With regard to the provisional agenda for the Joint Meetings of PPCC and ACC, it might perhaps have been wiser for the Council to request the two bodies to confine their work to the institutional aspects, so that the Council might have proposals on the subject before it at the beginning of its summer session.

44. Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom), with regard to item 5 on the International Women's Year, asked why the report of the World Conference was on the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the Council, given that the General Assembly would be devoting two items to that subject at its thirtieth session.

45. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) recalled that the World Conference of the International Women's Year had been convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and that it was therefore for the Council to decide what should be done with the report of the Conference.

46. Mr. BRITO (Brazil) proposed that the Council should specify the topic for discussion suggested by ACC, placing particular emphasis on the institutional aspects.

47. Mr. KITCHEN (United States of America) proposed the simpler solution of adding the phrase "including the institutional aspects" at the end of paragraph 2 on page 3 of document E/L.1657.

48. Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that, in his delegation's view, ACC and PPCC should perhaps be left to decide for themselves the aspects to which they would give major consideration in their work. He therefore endorsed the proposal made by the representative of the United States.

49. Mr. BRITO (Brazil) said that he would have preferred the work of the Joint Meetings to have been limited to the institutional aspects, but he could nevertheless accept the proposal made by the representative of the United States.

50. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session, as set forth in document E/L.1657, with an additional item entitled "Transport questions", and the provisional agenda for the Joint Meetings of the Policy and Programme Co-ordination Committee and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, included in the same document, taking into account the oral amendment proposed by the representative of the United States (para. 47 above).

It was so decided.

Review of the calendar of meetings (concluded)*

EXPERT GROUP ON TAX TREATIES BETWEEN
DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
(E/L.1656, 1661)

51. The PRESIDENT called upon the Council to consider the question of the review of the calendar of meetings for 1975, for which it had before it documents E/L.1656 and E/L.1661.

52. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) said that the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences had addressed a letter to the President of the Council, informing him that the Committee had unanimously decided to recommend that the Expert Group on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries should hold its session at Headquarters from 8 to 19 December 1975, and asking him to commend that recommendation to the Council (E/L.1661).

53. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council decided that the Expert Group on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries would hold its sixth session at Headquarters, from 8 to 19 December 1975.

It was so decided [decision 71 (LVIII), para. 2].

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

* Resumed from the 1941st meeting.

1952nd meeting

Thursday, 8 May 1975, at 3.50 p.m.

President: Mr. Iqbal AKHUND (Pakistan).

E/SR.1952

Participation in the World Conference of the International Women's Year (concluded)* (E/L.1662)

1. Mr. KAUFMANN (Netherlands) drew the attention of the members of the Council to the letter dated 6 May 1975 from the representative of the

Netherlands to the President of the Council, in which the Secretary-General was requested to invite, with the concurrence of the Council, the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and of Surinam to participate in the World Conference of the International Women's Year, to be held in June 1975 in Mexico City, as observers.

2. Surinam was to become independent before the end of the year and would no doubt apply for mem-

* Resumed from the 1945th meeting.

bership in the United Nations at the next session of the General Assembly. The Netherlands Antilles was also soon to accede to independence. The Governments of those Territories were keenly interested in the questions which would be discussed at the Mexico Conference and wished to participate as fully as possible in its work. Since Territories under Australian trusteeship had been invited to participate in the Conference as observers (1945th meeting) it would be desirable for similar arrangements to be made in the case of Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles.

3. Mr. LINDENBERG SETTE (Brazil) supported the request made by the representative of the Netherlands. The two Territories in question would soon be acceding to independence and he would be happy to see them participate in the World Conference.

4. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to authorize the Secretary-General to invite the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and of Surinam to participate in the World Conference of the International Women's Year as observers.

It was so decided [see decision 73 (LVIII), para. 1].

5. Mr. GONZALES DE COSSIO (Mexico) welcomed the decision which had just been taken. The Mexican people would welcome with pleasure the Governments of the Territories which had been invited to participate in the World Conference of the International Women's Year to be held shortly in Mexico City.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Rationalization of the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies (concluded)*

DRAFT REVISED RULES OF PROCEDURE (concluded)** (E/5634, E/5677, E/L.1663)

6. Mr. KJELDGAARD-OLESEN (Denmark), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the informal working group, said he was pleased to inform the President and members of the Council that the informal consultations which had been held throughout most of the fifty-eighth session had made it possible to reach near-unanimity on the draft revised rules of procedure (E/5677). However, there were two passages, rule 72 and rule 72 A, still left in square brackets. As Chairman of the informal consultations, he proposed an amendment to rule 72, paragraph 1, consisting of the deletion of the words "may invite". The word "may" in the first line of paragraph 2 should then be deleted. For rule 72 A, he proposed the following text: "The Council may invite any national liberation movement recognized by or in accordance with resolutions of the General Assembly to participate, without the right to vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that movement." If the Council adopted that text, rule 72 A would become rule 73 and the following rules would be renumbered accordingly.

7. He was fully aware that his proposals did not completely satisfy all representatives. If the Council was to adopt the revised rules of procedure, that could only be done by the delicate process of compromise. The revised rules of procedure were certainly not perfect. It should also be borne in mind that at its

seventh special session the General Assembly, when discussing the restructuring of the United Nations system, might adopt some decisions which could mean that some of the proposed new rules would have to be reconsidered. Inasmuch as any such changes would affect only a few rules, it should be easier for the Council to reconsider the question in the future than it had been at the current session, when it had had to study all the rules at once.

8. He proposed four minor amendments to draft resolution E/L.1663 suggested by the President. In paragraph 3, the word "review" should be replaced by the word "consider", and the words "the question of the review of" should be inserted before the words "the rules of procedure". In the foot-note, the word "orally" should be deleted. Finally, the whole of paragraph 4 should be deleted.

9. The PRESIDENT thanked the Chairman of the unofficial consultations for the skilful and patient way in which he had carried out his functions; he also thanked Mr. Wilder (Canada), who had been Chairman of the *Ad Hoc* Group on rationalization in 1974, and Mr. Benites (Ecuador) and Mrs. Wanjui (Kenya), Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council and its Subsidiary Bodies, for the work they had done.

10. Mr. KITCHEN (United States of America) said that his delegation had listened to Mr. Kjeldgaard-Olesen's statement with interest and had taken note of the amendments proposed to the draft revised rules of procedure (E/5677). It recognized that revision of the rules of procedure would enable the Council to carry out its work in a more satisfactory manner and, although it would have liked some further changes in the draft revised rules of procedure, it was able to support the document.

11. Nevertheless, his delegation considered—and recent events had borne it out—that the part of the rules of procedure concerning elections, rules 68-70, left much to be desired. It was still not very clear from reading those rules how a Government should put forward or withdraw its candidacy. That lack of clarity in the text could lead to serious difficulties in the future for some Governments.

12. In the past there had been a kind of gentleman's agreement, so that when a regional group agreed on a list of candidates the other groups respected its choice. Apparently that tacit agreement might be reversible in the future. For that reason, his delegation had been tempted to insist that, in view of the importance of the matter, it should be resolved before the draft revised rules of procedure were adopted. However, after consultation with several delegations and in view of the wish expressed by the President to conclude consideration of the question as quickly as possible, his delegation would confine itself, at the present stage, to pointing out the gap which, in its view, existed in the Council's rules of procedure, and reserved the right to revert to the point at a later stage.

13. The PRESIDENT thanked the representative of the United States for his co-operation.

14. Mr. OBAME (Gabon) congratulated those who had contributed to the preparation of the document before the Council.

* Resumed from the 1947th meeting.

** Resumed from the 1941st meeting.

15. With respect to rule 13, paragraph 4, he was surprised, firstly, that the Council, which was one of the most important organs of the United Nations, should have only three working languages and, secondly, that reports of subsidiary and other bodies on meetings that had been concluded less than 12 weeks before the opening of the session of the Council should not be postponed to the following session whenever it had not been possible to translate them into all the working languages. He considered those bodies very important, and every effort should be made to ensure that the documentation relating to their work was translated into all the working languages before being submitted to the Council.

16. However, he agreed on the whole with the draft revised rules of procedure which had been submitted to the Council for adoption.

17. Mr. LINDENBERG SETTE (Brazil) noted that the draft revised rules of procedure reproduced the provisions concerning elections which appeared in the present rules; those provisions had worked very well in the past because of the informal agreement among members.

18. Very recently, however, rule 69 had been used in a manner which had been entirely unforeseen. At present, there was no rule protecting the rights of a Member State of the United Nations which was not a member of the Council, with the result that, at the 1951st meeting a Member State had been placed in an embarrassing situation by a decision of the Council. There should therefore be included in the rules of procedure a provision for the protection of all the States members of the Council and Members of the United Nations, in order to prevent such a situation from arising again.

19. He had intended to propose such an amendment at the current meeting but, after consultation with other delegations, had decided not to press the point but to reserve the right to revert to it at the earliest opportunity.

20. Mr. OLIVERI LOPEZ (Argentina) said that his delegation shared the concern expressed by the representatives of the United States and Brazil regarding the provisions relating to elections. The experience of the last few days showed that it might be desirable to draft an additional rule to protect the rights of all States Members of the United Nations.

21. His delegation was prepared to consider that problem as soon as possible in order to fill the gap which now existed in the rules of procedure of the Council.

22. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take up the consideration of draft resolution E/L.1663; in that connexion, he drew attention to the annex to document E/5677, which would be annexed to the draft resolution, and the oral amendments to rules 72 and 72 A proposed by the Chairman of the informal consultations.

23. Mr. KITCHEN (United States of America) said his delegation agreed that rule 72 A should be adopted by consensus, and it was also prepared to accept the amendment proposed to that rule.

24. However, he hoped that the Council would bear in mind the views repeatedly expressed by the United States on the subject. His Government was prepared to consider each case individually.

25. Mr. NGALLI-MARSALA (Congo) endorsed draft resolution E/L.1663 and document E/5677 as orally amended by Mr. Kjeldgaard-Olesen, but said that in the French text of paragraph 4 of draft resolution E/L.1663, as amended, the word "*peut-être*" seemed to be superfluous, since the regional economic commissions were in any event obliged to comply with the directives of the Council; it could be replaced by the word "*bien*".

26. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted the annex to document E/5677, as orally amended and draft resolution E/L.1663, on the understanding that, if the French-speaking members of the Council agreed, the word "*peut-être*" in the French text of the last paragraph would be replaced by the word "*bien*".

It was so decided [resolution 1949 (LVIII)].

27. Mrs. DERRÉ (France) said that her delegation had joined in the consensus on document E/5677 but had the most express reservations with respect to rule 72 A of the rules of procedure, since the French Government did not recognize the representation of groups of persons who might present themselves as spokesmen for the population of French Territories.

28. Her delegation had also joined fully in the consensus on draft resolution E/L.1663. It believed, however, that the French text of paragraph 2 did not correspond to the English original, which it considered to be the only valid text. In the opinion of her delegation, that paragraph dealt only with the question of the representation of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations and could in no event be interpreted as interference in the affairs of those organizations or an impediment to their action in behalf of human rights.

29. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the rules of procedure as orally amended by the Chairman of the informal consultations.

30. However, his delegation was not entirely satisfied with the new rule 72 A; it preferred the first version which it had itself submitted for the consideration of the Council. In its view, the representatives of peoples struggling for their liberation should have the right to participate in the work of the Council without awaiting the Council's pleasure. His delegation hoped that the new wording would not lead to difficulties in the future and that the Council would not have to vote every time on whether or not to invite representatives of liberation movements to participate in its work.

31. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Strengthening of the capacity of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in connexion with public finance and financial institutions", in document E/5459, and the report of the Secretary-General on the "Third Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration", in document E/5640.

It was so decided [decisions 98 (LVIII) and 99 (LVIII)].

Progress reports brought to the attention of the Council (E/5610 and Add.1, E/5623, E/5642)

32. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council took note

of the reports which had been submitted for its information, namely: the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Development and International Economic Co-operation on its first session (E/5642); the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on teaching of the purposes and principles, the structure and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in schools and other educational institutions of Member States (E/5610 and Add.1); and the progress report of the Secretary-General on measures taken to implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East (E/5623).

It was so decided.

Waiver of the 32-page rule in respect of the study on the uses of the sea

33. Mr. CORDOVEZ (Secretary of the Council) requested the Council to authorize a waiver of the 32-page rule in respect of the study on the uses of the sea, which was to be submitted to the Council at its fifty-ninth session under item 18 of the provisional agenda (E/L.1657) in accordance with section I, paragraph 1 (b), of its resolution 1802 (LV). Indeed, in order to adhere to the 32-page rule, the length of the first draft report had been cut in half and annex I had been presented in tabular form; it was feared that any further reduction would detract from the substance of the report and would require revision of agency contributions, which had already been substantially abbreviated. The Secretariat would thus be unable to include annex II, which was an integral part of the report, unless it was authorized to waive the 32-page rule in respect of the report.

34. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to authorize the Secretariat to waive the 32-page rule in respect of the study which the Secretary-General had been requested to prepare on the uses of the sea.

It was so decided [decision 100 (LVIII)].

Thirtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

35. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Economic and Social Council was concluding the work of its fifty-eighth session at the solemn moment when all of progressive mankind was celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the great victory over Hitlerite fascism and militarism. Thirty years had passed since the defeat of Hitlerite fascism, which had unleashed the bloodiest war in history, a war which had cost 50 million lives and destroyed tens of thousands of towns and villages.

36. For the Soviet people, it had been a just and liberating war in defence of the homeland and of the conquests of socialism. The war had represented the most massive armed intervention of the shock troops of world imperialism against the Soviet homeland. It was there that the fate of the world's first Socialist State had been decided.

37. Hitlerite fascism—which had been founded on the odious “theory” of racial superiority and had aspired to world domination—had threatened the peace and independence of all States and all peoples. The future of all mankind, world civilization, democracy and progress had been at stake in that war. Had Hitler succeeded in his plans to establish the “Thousand-year Reich”, the peoples of the Soviet Union and other countries would have become slaves and the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America would have remained slaves.

38. The victory won by the Soviet people had cost them very dear. In the territory of the USSR, the Fascist invaders had destroyed and burned 1,700 towns, over 70,000 villages and hamlets and more than 6 million buildings; they had shed the blood of some 25 million people; they had destroyed 31,850 industrial enterprises which had employed approximately 4 million workers; they had crippled metallurgical factories producing some 60 per cent of the country's steel and mines producing more than 60 per cent of its coal; they had destroyed 65,000 kilometres of railways and 4,100 railway stations, and had pillaged 98,000 collective farms, 1,876 state farms and 2,890 machine and tractor stations; they had slaughtered, seized or driven away 7 million horses, 17 million cattle, 20 million pigs and 27 million goats and sheep. They had destroyed 40,000 hospitals and 84,000 schools, technical education establishments, higher educational establishments and scientific research institutes, as well as 43,000 general libraries: in a word, they had destroyed one third of the national wealth of the Soviet Union. However, the heaviest loss of the Patriotic War had been that of over 20 million Soviet lives.

39. Under the leadership of the Soviet Communist Party, without any outside assistance, the people had brought about the recovery of the national economy and its steady growth in accordance with the established plan.

40. The victory over Hitlerite fascism was an event which had the profoundest influence on the history of the world. In several European and Asian States, reactionary régimes had fallen and the situation had become propitious for the seizure of power by the workers and the building of socialism—the establishment of the world Socialist system. The victory had provided powerful encouragement to national liberation movements. Non-self-governing colonies and Territories had virtually disappeared and over 1,000 million people had been freed from colonial bondage.

41. It was universally recognized that the Soviet people had played a decisive role in the downfall of Hitlerite fascism. Two sets of figures would suffice to prove that fact. Ten million of the 13 million Wehrmacht soldiers who had been killed, wounded or taken prisoner had met their fate on the German-Soviet front. The Soviet armed forces had wiped out 607 divisions of the army of Fascist Germany and its satellites. On the other fronts, 176 divisions had been destroyed. The Soviet Union had been assisted in its struggle by freedom-loving peoples throughout the world. The struggle to liberate the peoples of eastern and south-eastern Europe had become one with the war waged by the Soviet people. The victory had been forged by the soldiers of the Czechoslovak people's army, the Polish army, the national liberation army of Yugoslavia, the army of the Albanian partisans and, at the end of the war, by Bulgarian, Romanian and Hungarian troops

fighting side by side with Soviet soldiers. The Soviet people had also received considerable assistance from the people of Mongolia. A significant contribution to the victory had likewise been made by the allies of the anti-Hitlerite coalition: the peoples of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France and other countries.

42. The thirtieth anniversary of the victory over fascism was thus a cause for celebration for all people. It was a celebration for those who had fought to remain free and for those who had fought to win their freedom.

43. The struggle against the common enemy and the establishment of the anti-Hitlerite coalition had shown that effective political and military co-operation was possible between States having different social systems. From the flames of the Second World War had emerged the concept of the United Nations. According to the Charter, the main purpose of the Organization was "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind". It had been emphasized repeatedly in United Nations documents that genuine progress for mankind was possible only in conditions of lasting peace and security. Thanks to the efforts of the Soviet Union, the countries of the Socialist community and other peace-loving States, considerable success had been achieved in moving towards international détente.

44. The Soviet Union and the countries of the Socialist community constantly and actively strove to ensure that political détente was strengthened by military détente and was used to promote a reduction in armaments and put an end to the arms race and develop economic, scientific, technical and cultural relations among all States, on an equal footing, in mutually advantageous conditions and without any discrimination or interference in internal affairs.

45. During the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the victory, it must not be forgotten that the forces of war, reaction and aggression continued to try to undermine progress. Those forces encouraged the arms race, opposed efforts to end international crises and, by flagrantly interfering in the internal affairs of other States, endeavoured to crush the struggle of peoples for freedom and democracy and to discredit the policy of peaceful coexistence.

46. There was no question that the anniversary of that great victory would help bring all progressive and peace-loving forces closer together, in the United Nations as well as elsewhere, in order to strengthen the struggle for freedom throughout the world, for disarmament and for the speedier economic and social progress of all peoples.

47. Mr. PUNTSAGNOROV (Mongolia), noting that the fifty-eighth session of the Economic and Social Council was drawing to a close at the time of the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the victory over fascism, emphasized the historic importance of that event, in which the first Socialist State, the Soviet Union, had played a preponderant role. Mankind could not forget the untold suffering which had been endured, the millions of dead and the tens of thousands of destroyed towns. Even today, 30 years after the victory, the lessons of the Second World War remained timely and should serve to remind peoples of the need to intensify their collaboration to ensure a lasting peace and prevent a thermonuclear catastrophe. The awareness of the global responsibility of all States for the

maintenance of peace and security had led to the establishment of the United Nations, which had been called upon to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Mongolia, which had joined the ranks of the anti-Fascist coalition and had actively participated in the struggle against fascism and militarism, had welcomed the establishment of the United Nations from the outset. The victory over fascism and militarism in which the Soviet Union had played a decisive role had had a great influence on the development of the world during the post-war period and had brought about fundamental changes on the international scene. The establishment of a world Socialist system was a great event which had made possible the development of all the revolutionary movements and national liberation movements. The countries of the Socialist community had put into practice the humanistic principles and purposes of the United Nations which reflected the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small. A characteristic of the contemporary world was the transformation of the system of international relations on the basis of the principle of peaceful coexistence of States with different social systems. That the world had succeeded in averting a new conflagration after the Second World War, despite sharp conflicts, was largely due to the policy of peace systematically pursued by the Soviet Union and the countries of the Socialist community.

48. The most remarkable development of the present era had been the collapse of colonialism and imperialism and the birth of new independent States. The imperialist policy of suppressing national liberation movements by setting peoples against each other and by supporting puppet régimes had been a total failure, as the historic victory won by the Viet-Nameese and Cambodian peoples had demonstrated. The successes of the revolutionary movement and the national liberation movements were linked to the assistance and support, political, material and moral, extended by the Soviet Union, the other countries of the Socialist community and all progressive and peace-loving forces in the world. His delegation believed that the positive changes which had come about in international relations had created conditions favourable for the development and reaffirmation of a spirit of understanding and co-operation among all countries on the basis of the principle of peaceful coexistence. They should enable the United Nations, of which the Economic and Social Council was one of the principal organs, to carry out productive activities. At the time when the thirtieth anniversary of the victory over fascism was being celebrated, his delegation wished to pay a tribute to the memory of all those who had given their lives to save humanity from Fascist enslavement. The States Members of the United Nations must now do their utmost to ensure that there would never be a repetition of the horrors of the Second World War and redouble their efforts to promote détente, secure a lasting peace and eliminate the vestiges of colonialism and racism. They would thus contribute to the solution of the world's economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems, which was the principal objective of the United Nations.

49. Mr. FLORIN (German Democratic Republic) said that during its fifty-eighth session, the Council had dealt with important economic and social questions

and had contributed to the preparations for the seventh special session of the General Assembly. The link between détente, disarmament and economic and social development had been stressed once more. His delegation was gratified that the Council had pronounced itself in favour of assistance to the people of Indo-China, who had had to wage a long war in order to attain their independence.

50. The closure of the session coincided with the celebration of an historic event which had been and continued to be crucial for the whole world and for the United Nations. His delegation wished to pay a tribute to all those who had fallen in the struggle against fascism. In order to save humanity from barbarism, a broad anti-Fascist front had been established, in which the Soviet Union had played a predominant role. Thus, the Second World War had taken the form of a confrontation between two social systems: on one side, Hitlerite imperialism and, on the other, socialism, supported by the Soviet Union. On the side of the anti-Hitler coalition, the best elements of the German people had also made a stand against Nazi dictatorship and the honour of the German people had been saved by those who had led an unceasing struggle against nazism in the concentration camps, the Fascist prisons and the ranks of the partisans. The victory won by the anti-Hitler coalition had also made it possible to free the German people from Hitlerite fascism and had led to the establishment of a peace-loving, anti-Fascist and democratic German State which would never again threaten its neighbours.

51. For 30 years, certain imperialist circles had been attempting to reverse the outcome of the Second World War. However, they had not succeeded and would not succeed because the cold war had given way to détente and constructive co-operation, as the Moscow, Warsaw, Berlin and Prague agreements, the quadripartite agreements on Berlin and the convening of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe proved. Those who sought to slow down the process of détente and intensify the arms race could do nothing to change that situation. It would be better for the United Nations if the representatives of a certain country desisted in their attacks on the Soviet Union.

52. The German Democratic Republic sided with the peace-loving and anti-imperialist forces of the world and would continue to contribute to the strengthening of peace and security in the world.

53. Mr. ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia) recalled that 30 years ago the most devastating and destructive war in the entire history of mankind had come to an end, with the defeat of nazism and the victory of all progressive and democratic forces in the world, and that in the course of that conflict the possibility of an alliance and co-operation between countries with different social systems had become apparent.

54. Thirty years ago, the Czechoslovak people had also celebrated the liberation of their country by the troops of the Soviet Union, whose heroic contribution to the conflict had been one of the most costly in terms of human life.

55. Having participated actively in the struggle against the Axis Powers, at the side of the Soviet troops, and having waged a merciless war against the Nazi occupiers, the Czechoslovak peoples had proceeded, after the victory, to introduce sweeping democratic changes under the guidance of the Communist Party. Thus,

after 30 years of economic and social reform, the Czechoslovak Republic had become one of the most advanced countries from the viewpoint of economic potential and its living standard.

56. Thanks to the combined efforts of the Socialist countries, the support given to the anti-imperialist forces and the constructive attitude of certain circles and authorities in the capitalist countries, international relations were increasingly characterized by détente, the renunciation of the use of force, recourse to negotiation, and economic, scientific and cultural co-operation. In that regard, the Economic and Social Council was one of the basic tools for strengthening international peace, security and co-operation with a view to solving the most urgent problems confronting mankind.

57. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, as a member of the community of Socialist States, would do its utmost to contribute to the attainment of those great objectives.

58. Mr. GROZEV (Bulgaria) recalled that 30 years ago the most deadly and destructive war ever experienced by mankind had ended with the victory of the forces of the anti-Fascist coalition and that in the course of that conflict the possibility of economic, political and military co-operation between States with different social systems and the notion of interdependence of States which was to lead to the establishment of the United Nations had become apparent.

59. In response to the appeal by the Communist Party, the Bulgarian people had taken up arms against the forces of the Fascist coalition and had fought alongside the Soviet troops who had played such an important role in the victory of the anti-Fascist coalition.

60. Following that war, the great anti-colonial movement had come into being and an irreversible process of détente had begun, with international relations based increasingly on peaceful coexistence and co-operation among States.

61. Within the United Nations family, the Socialist States had always striven and would continue to strive in every way to contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security, in order to avert a new world war.

62. Mr. KITCHEN (United States of America) said that 30 years ago the world had witnessed the end of the greatest cataclysm mankind had ever experienced. At the end of the Second World War the notion of interdependence, which was enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, had emerged.

63. At the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, President Ford and Secretary Kissinger had reaffirmed the United States commitment to strive for the strengthening of international peace, security and co-operation.

64. In conclusion, he emphasized the necessity of strengthening the ties of interdependence to uplift all peoples, rather than the useless dissipation of energy and confrontation which served only to tear them apart. He called for a rededication to the principles laid down in the San Francisco Charter and, in particular, those set forth in Chapter X, calling for a better way of life for mankind.

65. Mr. PETRIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that, now that the thirtieth anniversary of the victory over fascism had come, Socialist and non-aligned Yugoslavia found it imperative to resist tendencies to forget the sacrifices

and the lessons of the Second World War so that, as President Tito had said, the young generation all over the world would do their utmost to prevent the recurrence of such a conflagration.

66. Paying an enormous price in human lives, the Yugoslav peoples, led by their Communist Party, had fought against the Fascist forces. The attack by the Nazi troops against Yugoslavia had delayed the start of the Russian campaign for six weeks, and that delay had had a crucial impact on the course of the war. From that time on, the Yugoslav peoples had waged a relentless war of liberation against the Nazi occupation forces.

67. The defeat of nazism, which the USSR together with the Western allies had done much to bring about, had proved that the world's political and economic order must be changed if mankind was to survive and progress. At the same time, the Second World War had contained the seeds of the great anti-colonial movement, of the struggle against all forms of foreign domination and for the independence and equality of all States. The war had given rise to the concept of economic development and of the obligation of the developed countries to assist the less developed countries—principles which were enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Those changes had culminated in the decision to establish a new world economic order, and the States Member of the United Nations must do their utmost not to swerve from that goal. The implementation of the relevant decisions of the United Nations was one of the best barriers against any resurgence of the dark forces of fascism. The Economic and Social Council, as an instrument for achieving economic and social change, had a special role to play in that regard.

68. Mrs. CISSE (Guinea) noted that the closure of the fifty-eighth session of the Economic and Social Council coincided with the victory won over fascism 30 years ago. She wished to take the opportunity to pay a tribute to those who had contributed to that victory, and particularly to the peoples of the Soviet Union and the other Socialist countries. She also paid a tribute to Africa, which had lost the flower of its youth during the war years. Having suffered during the war, Africa had expected that once peace was restored its contribution would be recognized. Unfortunately, during the years that followed, it had had to endure cruel repression. Nevertheless, the sacrifice of its youth had not been in vain, because it had reawakened the awareness of the peoples living under colonialism and the African peoples had also won their independence as a result of the efforts of all those who had contributed to the victory over fascism. Now her delegation trusted that the efforts made by peoples of goodwill, particularly within the framework of the United Nations, would bring peace to the world and lead to the elimination of racism and *apartheid*, which were still prevalent in southern Africa, and of the last remaining vestiges of colonialism.

69. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) observed that it so happened that the Economic and Social Council was concluding the work of its fifty-eighth session on an historic date—the thirtieth anniversary of the defeat of fascism in Europe. That historic date had more than one meaning: for Europe, it marked the victory over nazism; for the countries of the third world, although they had sacrificed their best young men during the Second World War, it had marked the beginning or

the intensification of repression by the forces of colonial occupation. It had also marked the beginning of a new awareness which, for many, had led to liberation. Unfortunately, 30 years after the victory over nazism, people were still having to endure foreign oppression and it was only a few days ago that the heroic peoples of Viet-Nam and Cambodia had freed themselves from foreign domination. Algeria saluted the peoples who were still suffering, such as the Palestinian people and the African people in South Africa and Rhodesia, and deplored the fact that the very people who had suffered as a result of Hitlerite fascism were continuing to co-operate with South Africa and Rhodesia. Finally, he saluted the Soviet people who had lost more than 20 million of their sons during the Second World War.

70. The PRESIDENT, speaking as the representative of Pakistan, said that exactly 30 years ago the world had witnessed the culmination of a great struggle against nazism and fascism. As the Council commemorated the sacrifice of the millions who had given their lives in that titanic struggle against the forces of darkness, it should be remembered with gratitude that with their lives they had laid the foundations of the United Nations and had assured the triumph of the ideals embodied in the Charter. That victory had also foreshadowed the success of the long struggle for political emancipation waged by peoples under colonial domination.

71. In the 30 years which had elapsed since then, the idea of freedom and self-determination had become a reality over much of the globe. The concept of racial superiority was discredited and everywhere decried. The ideals of justice and equity among nations and peoples had acquired a fuller meaning. In those three brief decades, man had mastered the secrets of the atom, ventured out into space and acquired a deeper understanding of the biosphere in which he lived. They had also been years of great economic and social progress in many parts of the world.

72. But the gap between the rich and the poor had become wider. Poverty and backwardness were all the more unendurable because the means to eradicate them were available but unused. Racial discrimination of the worst kind persisted in southern Africa, although all the world was against it.

73. It was impossible to overlook the fact that those 30 years had witnessed a long and bloody war—perhaps the most agonizing for the conscience of mankind—which had just ended in Asia. The lives and treasure and years wasted in that war were a reminder that mankind had yet to reorder its values and priorities. That should make one reflect again on the paradox that in a world in which hunger, disease and deprivation prevailed, nations spent countless billions every year on preparations for a war which no one sought and no one could win.

74. In commemorating the past and the unity of purpose which had inspired the great struggle against the doctrines of violence and prejudice, it was fitting to be hopeful for the future while recognizing that the nature of the struggle was now different and the tasks which lay ahead more complex. It was not enough that there now existed sovereign equality among States: it was necessary that there should be equity and fairness among peoples. The role of the Economic and Social Council was primordial in that respect but as yet unfulfilled.

75. It was easy to depreciate the meagre results of some of the Council's meetings. But it must be remembered that in institutions of parliamentary form such as the Council, one could not expect, and should not seek, spectacular results. Progress would come only through a process of discussion and negotiation among members. In that regard there was every reason to be satisfied with the progress made at the current session. The more substantive aspects of the agenda for the year would, as usual, be considered at the summer session. He had no doubt that, as at the current session, a constructive approach would prevail and enable the Council to lay the foundations for the success of the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly.

76. The third session of the Committee on Review and Appraisal would begin shortly and the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session would meet in June.

At its fifty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council was to examine the reports of those two Committees and present them to the General Assembly at its seventh special session in such a form that the Assembly could adopt practicable decisions in the brief time available to it. The coming months therefore promised to be arduous but challenging.

77. In conclusion, he hoped that the thirtieth anniversary of the end of the great war against nazism and fascism would inaugurate a new era of genuine co-operation in the fields of economic and social development.

Closure of the session

78. The PRESIDENT declared the fifty-eighth session of the Economic and Social Council closed.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.