

allotted to the Latin American States: Bolivia; for the four seats allotted to the Western European and other States: Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; for the seat allotted to the Socialist States of Eastern Europe: Bulgaria.

Bolivia, Bulgaria, Dahomey, Guinea, Indonesia and the Philippines were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund by acclamation.

A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect the four representatives of the Western European and other States.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	52
Required majority:	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Sweden	47
Netherlands	45
Switzerland	44
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	41
Turkey	26
Spain	3

Having obtained the required majority, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND

50. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had to elect one member of the Board of Governors of the United Nations Special Fund from the Western European and other States for a term of office effective as of the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1977. However, since there were no candidates, he suggested that the Council should postpone the election to a later session.

It was so decided.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

51. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to proceed to the election of two members of the Committee on Natural Resources from the Asian States for a term of office effective as of the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1978.

52. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Assistant Secretary of the Council) pointed out that there was only one candidate, Indonesia.

53. The PRESIDENT accordingly suggested that the Council should elect Indonesia by acclamation and postpone to a later session the election of the second member.

It was so decided.

Indonesia was elected a member of the Committee on Natural Resources by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

1950th meeting

Wednesday, 7 May 1975, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Iqbal AKHUND (Pakistan).

AGENDA ITEM 15

Assistance to Indo-China (E/L.1660)

1. Mr. FASLA (Algeria), introducing draft resolution E/L.1660 on behalf of the sponsors, said that his delegation's intention in requesting the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item entitled "Assistance to Indo-China" had been to move the Council to appeal to all members of the international community to assist the peoples of Indo-China in their efforts to bring about the reconstruction of their recently liberated countries. While other initiatives, motivated by noble sentiments of solidarity, were of course being taken at various levels, both public and private, the draft resolution focused on assistance from States, since, at least for the moment, that was the form of assistance which the peoples directly concerned seemed to prefer. The Ambassador of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam in Paris had said recently that his Government was willing to accept assistance from any State, provided that it was not made subject to political conditions.

2. The people of Viet-Nam had suffered for 30 years and had paid the price of millions of lives for the right

to live in freedom. Their victory was one of the finest pages in the history of the struggle of oppressed peoples against foreign occupation and reaction and provided an example of how a people, however small, could persist in their just cause and defeat any power in the world. The victory of the peoples of South Viet-Nam and Cambodia was also a victory for the third world, for all progressive forces, for non-alignment and for peace. The peoples of Viet-Nam and Cambodia were therefore deserving of the solidarity and the moral, political and financial support of the entire international community, which should also endeavour to ensure that their legitimate representatives took their rightful place in the United Nations.

3. Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, France, the German Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Norway, Romania, Uganda, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia had joined those countries whose names already appeared in document E/L.1660 as sponsors of a draft resolution appealing to all States to come to the assistance of the peoples of Indo-China. The first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution welcomed the end of the war which had been imposed upon those peoples. The second preambular paragraph referred to the destruction of the economic infra-

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structure of Indo-China. There was no need to rehearse the details of that destruction, since all were painfully aware of the ruin and desolation which the war had left in its wake. It was encouraging to note that the heroic peoples of Indo-China had already embarked on the phase of national reconstruction referred to in that paragraph, and all States had a duty to assist them in that demanding task.

4. Paragraph 1 expressed the sympathy of the Economic and Social Council for the peoples of Indo-China. In that connexion, he reiterated his delegation's solidarity with and sympathy for those peoples and their legitimate representatives, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam. Paragraph 2 contained an appeal to all States to provide assistance. The possibility that intergovernmental and other organizations might have a contribution to make to the reconstruction effort was not precluded, but that would be for the peoples of Indo-China to decide. They alone could stipulate the form of aid which they deemed most appropriate, and paragraph 2 of the draft resolution included a provision to that effect. No one should be allowed to use assistance as a means to interfere in the internal affairs of the countries of Indo-China or to violate their sovereignty. He urged the Council to adopt draft resolution E/L.1660 unanimously.

5. Mr. CHANG Hsien-wu (China) said that the South Viet-Nameese and Cambodian peoples had recently won great historic victories of world significance in their struggle for national liberation, and his delegation extended to them its warmest congratulations. As the representative of Algeria had said, their victory was a joint victory for the third world and all progressive mankind in general. It had proved once again that a just cause was invincible. Countries wanted independence, nations wanted liberation and the people wanted revolution; that historical trend was surging forward vigorously and with irresistible force. The super-Power policies of aggression and expansion were doomed to failure. Indo-China belonged to the Indo-Chinese peoples and not to the reactionaries, still less to the imperialists. No one and no force could stop the victorious advance of the Indo-Chinese peoples.

6. The victory of the Viet-Nameese and Cambodian peoples was the brilliant result of their perseverance in unity and of their dauntless struggle based on independence and self-reliance. It was also a glorious example of how the people of a small country could resist and defeat the aggression of a big imperialist Power. His delegation was convinced that under the leadership of their respective Governments the South Viet-Nameese and Cambodian peoples could surmount the serious damage caused by the brutal super-Power war of aggression and go on to consolidate their victory so long as they maintained their independent spirit and dared to struggle and to win.

7. All international assistance to the Indo-Chinese peoples, be it bilateral or multilateral, should be accorded in strict respect for the sovereignty and will of the recipient countries, without interference in their internal affairs and without any conditions being attached by imposition. Such assistance should facilitate the independence and self-reliance of the recipient countries, and should not weaken or damage their independent development.

8. The Chinese people and the Indo-Chinese peoples were brothers and comrades-in-arms and had always supported and encouraged each other. The victory of the Indo-Chinese peoples was a tremendous encouragement to the Chinese people, who would in the future perform, as always, their internationalist duty and firmly support the just struggle of the Indo-Chinese peoples.

9. Mr. BERG (Norway), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, said that the history of the Indo-Chinese war was a sad tale of suffering and hardship which had devastated that region and the lives of its peoples for decades. The end of the war was a relief to all who had hoped that conditions would be stabilized so that the peoples of the peninsula could unite in the work of reconstruction and development. That was the task not of the peoples of Indo-China alone, but of the entire international community. The dictates of human solidarity required that action should be taken to lighten the burdens borne by the peoples of Indo-China.

10. The delegations of all the Nordic countries therefore welcomed the initiative taken by the Algerian delegation in submitting draft resolution E/L.1660, which was fully in line with the numerous appeals made in the past by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Nordic countries for an immediate end to the war and the initiation of a post-war development and reconstruction effort. The Governments of the Nordic countries had consistently expressed their desire to make whatever contribution they could to such an effort, and would consequently give their full support to the draft resolution.

11. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, ever since its October Revolution, the Soviet Union had followed the principle of supporting all peoples struggling against foreign rule. On numerous occasions in the Council, his delegation had maintained that détente was an imperative of the times. Now, the peoples of Asia were finally reaping the benefits of détente. Victory had finally been won by the people of Viet-Nam, who at every stage of their struggle had enjoyed the resolute support of the Soviet Union and all the Socialist countries. That victory opened up prospects for a peaceful life for the peoples of Indo-China, and the Soviet people welcomed their outstanding success as the inevitable outcome of their struggle against reactionary and mercenary régimes. In a cable to the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Prince Sihanouk had expressed his personal gratitude and that of his people to the Soviet Union for its constant support in their struggle for national liberation.

12. The Soviet Union had already begun to provide food assistance to the peoples of Indo-China with the sending in April of food-stuffs and medicines, a gift from Soviet trade unions; further shipments had followed shortly thereafter. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam had highly praised the selfless assistance provided by the Soviet Union during the 30-year struggle for independence and had stated that the people of Viet-Nam had drawn inspiration from the example of the Soviet people's victory in the Second World War.

13. As the Soviet leaders had observed in a letter to their Viet-Nameese counterparts, the success of the national liberation struggle in South Viet-Nam was a further reaffirmation of the solidarity of the Socialist countries with the people of South Viet-Nam and all progressive forces. True to the principles of international-

ism and solidarity with peoples struggling for national emancipation the Soviet Union had actively solicited assistance for the people of South Viet-Nam, and his delegation had fully supported the Algerian request for the inclusion of an item entitled "Assistance to Indo-China" in the agenda of the Council as an urgent and important question. His delegation had also joined in sponsoring draft resolution E/L.1660 and hoped that it would receive the unanimous support of the Council.

14. Mr. QADRUD-DIN (Pakistan) expressed his delegation's appreciation for the initiative taken by the Algerian delegation in requesting the inclusion of the question of assistance to Indo-China in the Council's agenda. The end of the war had produced a feeling of satisfaction and relief in Pakistan. The struggle of the peoples of Indo-China, with its destruction in both material and human terms, had finally been crowned with success. It was incumbent upon the entire international community to provide all possible assistance to the peoples of Indo-China in their recovery efforts. His delegation had, therefore, co-sponsored draft resolution E/L.1660, and it wished to emphasize that, as stipulated in paragraph 2, all assistance, whether multilateral or bilateral, should be provided in accordance with the needs and requests of the Governments concerned. It was appropriate and necessary for the Council, as the central co-ordinating body of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, to promote prompt action both within and outside the United Nations system.

15. Mr. DUMAS (France) said that, because it shared the humanitarian concerns expressed in draft resolution E/L.1660, his delegation had become a sponsor. France had already shown its concern about the great problems that confronted Indo-China by responding to the joint appeal of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with an additional contribution of 2 million francs. On a bilateral basis, it had provided financial assistance and had dispatched a team of physicians to the Hôpital Grall in Saigon. It had sent 70 tons of food and medicine to Saigon, and a French aircraft, specially assigned to such missions, had delivered to Hanoi several dozen tons of medicines donated by French and international humanitarian organizations. Those acts were indications of France's response to the appeal for international solidarity contained in draft resolution E/L.1660. His delegation agreed that it should be left to the recipient countries to determine the ways and means of providing assistance.

16. Mr. BERLIS (Canada) said that his country had for a considerable period been closely, and at times painfully, associated with the peoples of Indo-China. From 1954 to 1973 Canada had served, under conditions which had often been arduous and frustrating, as a member of the International Commissions for Supervision and Control in Laos, Cambodia and Viet-Nam. Following the Paris agreements of 1973, Canada had continued to serve for as long as it seemed useful to do so as a member of the new International Commission. It had withdrawn from that body reluctantly and only because it had reached the conclusion that conditions, both within and without Indo-China, had made it impossible for Canada to make an effective contribution to the restoration of peace in Indo-China.

17. Throughout all those years, Canada had also contributed to the alleviation of the miseries of the peoples of Indo-China in other ways. The Canadian Govern-

ment and private Canadian voluntary agencies had done what they could to provide humanitarian assistance to all the peoples in the peninsula who would accept it. Canada's previous experience had motivated it to respond to the Secretary-General's appeal to participate in the relief efforts of the United Nations system to alleviate the suffering of the peoples of Indo-China.

18. All were aware of the emergency situation created in Indo-China by recent developments, and his Government to date had provided \$6,750,000 in assistance under its relief programme for Indo-China. That total included a contribution of \$500,000 to be channelled through Canadian voluntary agencies and \$6,250,000 in grants to international organizations helping refugees displaced by the current emergency.

19. With regard to the first contribution, the Canadian International Development Agency was making grants in that amount to support the activities of three Canadian voluntary agencies: the Canadian Council of Churches, the Canadian Save the Children Fund and OXFAM. Those three organizations had had previous experience in administering funds received through the Canadian International Development Agency in other emergency situations, and they had international affiliations which would enable them to work freely in all parts of Indo-China regardless of changing conditions.

20. With regard to the second contribution, he said that \$2.5 million would be used for the purchase and shipment of more than 700 metric tons of powdered milk and 1,200 metric tons of canned fish through the concerted efforts of the International Red Cross, UNICEF and UNHCR. A cash grant of \$1.5 million had been allocated to the special account of the Secretary-General administered by Sir Robert Jackson. An additional \$500,000 would be used to provide air transport of priority goods purchased in Canada for distribution by United Nations organizations and the International Red Cross. The remaining \$1,750,000 had been contributed to support the emergency relief programmes of UNICEF, UNHCR and the Indo-China Operations Group of the International Red Cross.

21. It would be apparent from the foregoing that his delegation would be sympathetic to any effort which the Council might make to encourage international support for assistance to alleviate suffering and hardship in Indo-China.

22. Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic) welcomed the inclusion of the item entitled "Assistance to Indo-China" in the Council's agenda at the suggestion of Algeria. For more than five years, the Cambodian people had been forced to fight for their national independence and sovereignty and for a democratic and prospering Cambodia under the leadership of the Front for National Unity of Cambodia and of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia. The people of Viet-Nam had fought heroically to liberate themselves from the yoke of the anti-popular Thieu régime, which had been sustained by foreign circles and had constantly violated the provisions of the Paris Agreement. The German Democratic Republic, together with the Soviet Union and the other States of the Socialist community, had always supported the struggle of the peoples of Indo-China for their territorial integrity and national liberation and against foreign intervention. Competent spokesmen for those peoples had repeatedly appreciated in public the effectiveness of that political, moral and material help.

23. His country had again declared its readiness to contribute towards normalizing life in the liberated territories and carrying out reconstruction in freedom and independence, and without foreign intervention. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers had recently assured the Republic of South Viet-Nam that the German Democratic Republic would immediately send goods worth 10 million marks, including food-stuffs, medicine and textiles; that pledge was in addition to grants worth 15 million marks made for 1975 under an agreement of 9 September 1974. A consignment of medicine had been transmitted to the Front for National Unity of Cambodia, and charter flights had been dispatched with consignments of aid for the Republic of South Viet-Nam to be distributed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Council of Churches and other agencies.

24. By becoming a sponsor of the draft resolution (E/L.1660), his delegation had demonstrated its support for the appeal to help the peoples of Indo-China. That demand was, above all, directed to those who had brought untold misery to the countries concerned and caused enormous damage to their peoples by their policy of intervention pursued for several decades and who were accomplices in mass murder, forced evacuation and the abduction of children. Besides, it would be in accordance with international law and international agreements that they should be obliged to compensate for the destruction and enormous economic losses they had caused.

25. He took the opportunity to stress that the German Democratic Republic would continue to grant full support to the just struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America for their national independence, social progress and equitable international economic relations.

26. Mr. PETRIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that the heroic victories in Cambodia and Viet-Nam had been welcomed with great joy by Socialist, non-aligned Yugoslavia. President Tito had stressed that they represented a victory for all progressive forces and provided encouragement in the struggle against colonialism, neo-colonialism and all forms of foreign domination. It was an event of historic significance for the struggle against oppression, and a confirmation of the principles of independence, equality and non-alignment. In particular, it proved that peoples, however small, could not be defeated if they were determined to defend their independence and freedom. His own country had fought a difficult and victorious war of independence, and had earned the right to be the master of its own destiny. It had therefore been helping the peoples of Indo-China with assistance of all kinds. The draft resolution (E/L.1660) was an expression of support to those peoples, during the difficult years ahead, in the reconstruction of their war-torn countries. Yugoslavia had expressed its readiness to make further contributions in all possible ways according to their requirements.

27. Mr. GHELEV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation had welcomed the Algerian initiative for the inclusion in the agenda of the item entitled "Assistance to Indo-China", and had become a sponsor of the draft resolution. The item was both timely and urgent, since the peoples of Indo-China had suffered enormous material and human losses in the course of their long struggle for national independence. Their victory was a victory for peace and progress, and it opened up new perspectives for assistance in overcoming the terrible damage caused

by foreign forces. The international community should accord the necessary priority to assisting the efforts of the peoples concerned to achieve economic and social development in peace and independence, and the most substantial aid should be provided by those most responsible for their losses.

28. Bulgaria, in co-operation with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other members of the Socialist community, had from the start provided fraternal moral and material assistance to the people of Viet-Nam, and it welcomed their total victory over the forces of imperialism and aggression. He reaffirmed his country's determination to provide assistance for reconstruction, and hoped that the draft resolution would receive unanimous support.

29. Mr. GORITZA (Romania) said that his delegation had been pleased to become a sponsor of draft resolution E/L.1660. His country had always provided active material and diplomatic assistance to the peoples of Indo-China in their just struggle. Their victory had created the conditions for reconstruction and for the pursuit of economic and social progress in liberty and without foreign intervention. Romania would provide all possible help in that task; his Government hoped that the draft resolution would receive general support and that the appeal which it contained would be supported by the international community in a spirit of solidarity with the peoples of Indo-China.

30. Mr. MBATCHI (Gabon) commended the delegations which had taken the initiative of submitting the draft resolution on assistance to Indo-China. His country extended its full support and sympathy to the war-torn countries of Indo-China, and therefore wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

31. Mr. GONZALEZ DE COSSIO (Mexico) said that his country had welcomed the end of the long and bloody war in Indo-China with great satisfaction. It could not remain unmoved by the victory of a people which had fought so long for independence and self-determination. He expressed sympathy both for the people of Viet-Nam, whose struggle had been victorious, and for all countries which were prepared to make the greatest sacrifices in the struggle for independence. Although geographically remote from Indo-China, Mexico had previously suffered for many years from armed aggression and foreign intervention in its political, social and economic affairs, and it therefore understood the value of peace and independence.

32. President Echeverría had said that peace was not merely the absence of war, but also meant justice, stability and well-being for the people. The Mexican delegation therefore supported draft resolution E/L.1660 and joined in the appeal for assistance to Indo-China in the reconstruction of its infrastructure, so that it could have the means to provide food, housing, education and health services for its people. Reconstruction would be long and difficult, and international assistance, with full respect for national sovereignty, could be of great benefit to the people of Ho Chi Minh City, of Viet-Nam and of the Indo-China peninsula as a whole.

33. Mr. NGALLI-MARSALA (Congo) said that the sponsors of the draft resolution, including the Congo, had foregone political recriminations and adopted a responsible attitude, with the sole objective of assisting the peoples of Indo-China now facing immense tasks of national reconstruction after a particularly savage war, which had caused millions of casualties over a period of 30 years. A number of countries had already

shown their solidarity by working actively to provide assistance, and the Economic and Social Council should not turn a deaf ear to that movement. The sponsors of the draft resolution, transcending all political considerations, therefore wished to appeal to all members of the international community to help the heroic peoples of Indo-China, subject to strict respect for the sovereignty which those peoples had bought so dearly, to tackle their difficult task of building a new society.

34. Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy) said that his country had followed with sympathy the tragic suffering of the peoples of Indo-China, and fervently hoped that the end of the fighting provided the conditions for re-establishing normal life. As in the past, Italy intended to show its solidarity materially. Its delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution E/L.1660.

35. Mr. ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia) said that the struggle for independence and liberation in Indo-China had lasted for decades and had involved immense human and material losses. His country had supported that heroic struggle of the peoples of Indo-China in every way, and had provided assistance at all levels. Their victory was the victory of all democratic and progressive forces. His delegation had welcomed the Algerian initiative, which had resulted in the draft resolution before the Council, of which Czechoslovakia was a sponsor. Huge efforts would be required to reconstruct the national economies of Indo-China, and the international community should provide assistance in that task. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam had declared that it would accept economic and technological assistance from any country, on condition that it was free of foreign interference. His country would do its best to provide such assistance, and he hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

36. Mr. OCHIRBAL (Mongolia) observed that his country had always sided with the just cause of the peoples of Indo-China and had provided all possible moral and material support in their fight for independence, self-determination and freedom from foreign intervention. It therefore fully shared their joy in their historic victory, which had again shown that the future belonged to those who stood up for justice and that the will of peoples fighting for independence could not be broken. The countries of Indo-China were now facing the task of economic reconstruction, and it was therefore timely that the Economic and Social Council should adopt the draft resolution before it, of which his delegation was a sponsor. He hoped that it would do so by an overwhelming majority.

37. Mr. KANAZAWA (Japan) said that peace had at last returned to Indo-China after unbearable suffering, and emergency humanitarian aid was therefore urgently needed. His country had provided \$2 million for assistance to the people of Indo-China through the Indo-China Operations Group of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and further assistance was under active consideration. It was to be hoped that such assistance would help Indo-China to recover from the damages of war, and that the time would soon come when emergency humanitarian aid could be replaced by assistance for economic reconstruction. His delegation therefore fully supported draft resolution E/L.1660.

38. Mr. CHABALA (Zambia) said that his country, together with all peace-loving peoples throughout the world, welcomed the victory of the peoples of Indo-China in their struggle for freedom and independence. Events had shown the inevitability of victory in the

struggle for emancipation and freedom from foreign intervention, and that should serve as an inspiration for oppressed peoples everywhere. It should also be a warning to foreign forces which attempted, in any manner and in any place, to abet and support unjust causes. His delegation therefore fully supported the draft resolution, and joined in the invitation to provide assistance to the peoples of Indo-China in their work of reconstruction. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

39. Mr. GARCIA BELAUNDE (Peru) said that Peru, as a non-aligned country in the process of achieving economic independence, was very gratified by the successful outcome of the 30-year struggle for independence in Indo-China, and had therefore co-sponsored draft resolution E/L.1660. Foreign aggression against the peoples of Indo-China had caused the destruction of the economic infrastructure, reconstruction of which would be long and difficult, and therefore rapid assistance from the international community was requested. All States had a moral obligation to help peoples who had made an immense sacrifice for the sake of true independence and economic emancipation. The non-aligned countries had for long been calling for peace in Indo-China, with the withdrawal of foreign forces and an end to foreign aggression. The international community should join forces in a new struggle, namely, that of reconstruction.

The draft resolution (E/L.1660) was adopted [resolution 1944 (LVIII)].

40. Mr. FERGUSON (United States of America) said that his delegation had approved draft resolution E/L.1660 and had therefore joined in the consensus by which it had been adopted. Although there was no doubt of the humanitarian need involved, it must be noted that for his country the situation in Indo-China was a very complex one. His Government would have to ascertain the views and attitudes of the authorities in various parts of the peninsula. He was constrained to note that his Government would not provide any economic assistance for the rehabilitation of North Viet-Nam and had expressed in other forums its uncertainty about the position with regard to South Viet-Nam. It must see what kind of government there would be in South Viet-Nam—if, indeed, there was to be a government of South Viet-Nam—but it would view with care and compassion requests for aid from responsible authorities in South Viet-Nam.

41. He noted with regret that the debate had been marred by offensive allusions by certain Member States. His Government did not believe that the debates of the Economic and Social Council were an occasion for victory celebrations, however muted. The first responsibility for meeting the economic needs of Viet-Nam must fall on those who had brought about the changes in the peninsula. It was his delegation's hope that the suffering in Indo-China had indeed come to an end.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Programme budget for 1976-1977 and medium-term plan for 1976-1979 (continued)* (E/5612, E/5613 and Corr.1-4, E/5614, E/5632; E/5643, chap. I, draft resolution III; E/5660, E/5661 and Corr.2, E/L.1642, 1658, 1659)

42. Mr. BRITO (Brazil) said that delegations that had been trying to reach a conclusion on item 3 had had

* Resumed from the 1947th meeting.

difficulties in considering it in depth, which explained why the outcome of the consultations, as reflected in draft resolutions E/L.1658 and E/L.1659, was limited.

43. Draft resolution E/L.1658 was largely self-explanatory. The purpose of the fifth preambular paragraph was to record the fact that certain subsidiary bodies had made recommendations; a foot-note should be added to show which subsidiary bodies were involved. Although operative paragraph 1 noted with satisfaction the progress made, it was intended to indicate an awareness that substantial additional progress was needed. In connexion with paragraph 2, he expressed gratitude for the Secretariat's work in the specific programme on Science and Technology: document E/5661 and Corr.2 set out a very good, if not perfect, programme. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft resolution contained the minimum possible recommendations for the next biennium. He stressed that the report requested in paragraph 3 was to concentrate on feasibility only; other information would not have to be presented in the form of reports.

44. Draft resolution E/L.1659 consisted of draft resolution III of the Population Commission as it appeared in the report of the Commission on its eighteenth session (E/5643), minus two paragraphs that were covered in the omnibus draft resolution. He emphasized that the recommendations before the Council were not the best possible ones. They were very modest and were feasible in current circumstances.

45. Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) withdrew his delegation's amendments (E/L.1642) to resolution III of the Population Commission. Although his delegation was not completely happy with draft resolution E/L.1659, it welcomed the fact that a decision would be taken. It had hoped for a resolution by the Council itself, and was in some uncertainty about the statement in paragraph 2 that resources were not adequate, when it was in fact planned to add four staff members to the Population Division.

46. With regard to draft resolution E/L.1658, he said that although the roles of budgeting and programming were separate and distinct, they were also complementary, as were the bodies responsible for them. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) must have the information it required from the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) in order to do its budgetary work effectively. ACABQ had worked very well for 30 years and could work even better, without being changed, with appropriate guidance from CPC. CPC had been criticized for failure to fulfil its mandate. It must be reactivated, its time-table must be approved, and its terms of reference must be narrowed to focus on work within its capabilities. It might do well to select specific programmes for co-ordination every other year, possibly on the basis of suggestions from the Joint Inspection Unit. It would not be necessary to set up any new bodies to help CPC to do its work. He hoped that his delegation's views would be taken into account when the time came for the General Assembly to consider the issue.

47. Mrs. DERRÉ (France) said she regretted that the Council had devoted so little time to the medium-term plan. CPC had spent one week on the matter and

had made some important recommendations, but the Council had devoted only a few hours to discussing the issue. It was hardly surprising that the draft resolutions were so general and that they contained the usual vague instructions to the Secretariat, which could not be expected to do its work properly without specific indications of priorities and conclusions on the programme budget. She wished to know whether the Secretariat interpreted paragraph 3 of draft resolution E/L.1658 as requiring it to change the form of the budget once again. She also wished to know how the Secretariat interpreted paragraph 4. It would not make the work of delegations easier if they had to consider an additional 200 or 300 pages of documentation.

48. Like the representative of the United Kingdom, she was a little unhappy about paragraph 2 of draft resolution E/L.1659. No one had made any mention of a lack of resources when the issue had been discussed in February.

49. Mr. LAVAU (Director, Budget Division) said he understood the concern expressed over the contents of paragraph 3 of draft resolution E/L.1658. There should be greater consistency between the presentations of the plan and of programmes. Although budgeting was essentially a means of allocating appropriations to the main functional units, the Secretariat had been asked to consider the possibility of regrouping certain sections more in accordance with the plan, and it might even adopt a horizontal approach in some cases. The necessary studies would be made to carry out the decision. An analysis by programme would be presented as far as possible, but it must be borne in mind that there were difficulties in reconciling the presentation of allocations of resources to functional units with that of more specific allocations. Available information to meet the requirements of paragraph 4 of the draft resolution would appear as annexes to reports on the budgetary activities of the agencies. A totally analytical approach would mean an immense amount of detail and a risk of excessive documentation. Nevertheless, the Council and the bodies concerned could have additional information.

50. Mr. G. A. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation regretted that the Council had not found it possible to consider the results of the fifteenth session of CPC as set out in the report of the Committee (E/5632). He hoped that the comments of CPC on social, economic and human rights issues would be taken into account by the General Assembly.

51. His delegation had no objection to the adoption of draft resolution E/L.1659 without a vote, but he would point out that the subject had been covered at the fifteenth session of CPC. His delegation had stated its position on paragraph 2 of the draft resolution in CPC and in the Population Commission, and it reserved the position it would take in the Fifth Committee at the next session of the General Assembly.

52. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that the word "thereon" should be inserted after the words "to report" in draft resolution E/L.1658, paragraph 3.

The draft resolutions (E/L.1658 and E/L.1659) were adopted [resolutions 1945 (LVIII) and 1946 (LVIII)].

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.