

ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION OF DEVASTATED AREAS

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Mr. Ernesto SANJINES (Bolivia)

The Economic and Social Council, at its third session, considered the Preliminary Report of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas of the Economic and Employment Commission (document A/147), and requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to transmit to the General Assembly for consideration the report together with the relevant resolution of the Council of 3 October 1946 (document A/126).

The General Assembly, at its forty-sixth plenary meeting on 31 October 1946, referred this question, which appeared as Item 22 on its Agenda, to the Second Committee for consideration.

During the discussion in the Second Committee, several delegations stressed the fact that the economic reconstruction of the devastated areas was not only a moral obligation of the United Nations but also an essential factor in the restoration of world economy and of international trade.

The Committee recognized that the financial aspect of the problem of economic reconstruction of devastated areas was of the greatest importance. It urged, in particular, that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development should come into full and effective operation at the earliest possible date, so that it may be able, early in 1947, to make the fullest possible contribution towards the needs of economic reconstruction.

Several delegations felt that the Economic and Social Council should recommend as soon as possible the adoption of the necessary measures to increase and promote the production of raw materials necessary for the

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reconstruction of devastated areas, and to facilitate the transportation of those materials from the producing countries to the devastated areas.

The resolution of the Economic and Social Council of 3 October 1946 met with the general approval of the Committee; some delegations, however, suggested that concrete proposals should be made as soon as possible by the Economic and Social Council to meet the short-term requirements of the devastated countries.

The necessity was stressed of giving effective assistance to the devastated areas, and also the need for creating an economic commission for Europe and an economic commission for the Far East.

A drafting Sub-Committee, composed of twenty-one countries was established to study the draft resolutions submitted by the Delegation of Brazil (document A/C.2/69), Greece (document A/C.2/70) and Norway (document A/C.2/71). The Delegations of Mexico and Yugoslavia also submitted amendments to the Brazilian and Greek draft resolutions respectively. The Sub-Committee held three meetings and submitted a single draft resolution (document A/C.2/92) for the consideration of the Committee at its meeting on 6 December 1946.

The Committee approved unanimously the draft resolution submitted by the Sub-Committee recommending that the Economic and Social Council give prompt and favourable consideration to the creation of an economic commission for Europe and an economic commission for the Far East.

The Second Committee therefore recommends the adoption by the General Assembly of the following resolution:

ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION OF DEVASTATED AREAS

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING NOTE of the Preliminary Report of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas (document A/147), and of the relevant resolution of the

Economic and Social Council of 3 October 1946 (document A/126),
and recognizing the urgent need for international co-operation in
the reconstruction of devastated areas:

1. APPROVES the General Resolution of the Economic and Social Council, the resolution on Survey of the Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas in Asia and the Far East, and the resolution for continuing the work of the Sub-Commission on Devastated Areas in Europe (document E/245);
2. URGES the Members of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council, and the specialized agencies and inter-governmental organizations concerned, to take all possible steps, within their respective fields of activity, which may lead to the early solution of the problems of economic reconstruction of devastated areas;
3. DIRECTS the Secretary-General to transmit to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development the opinion of the General Assembly that, if the economic reconstruction of devastated areas is not to be unduly delayed, the International Bank should come into full effective operation at the earliest possible date so that, in accordance with the special functions laid down for the Bank in its articles of Agreement, it may be able, early in 1947, to make the fullest possible contribution toward the needs of economic reconstruction;
4. RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council and its Commissions consider undertaking as soon as possible, in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned, a general survey of raw material resources needed for the economic reconstruction of devastated areas, with a view to recommending the adoption of the necessary measures to increase and promote

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production and to facilitate transportation of those materials from the producing areas to the devastated areas;

5. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council at its next session give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of an economic commission for Europe and an economic commission for Asia and the Far East."
