

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

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ET SOCIAL**

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING

Held at Church House, Dean's Yard, London,
on Thursday, 25 April at 3.15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: MR. LISICKY (CZECHOSLOVAKIA)

Continuation of the Discussion on Paras. 6 and 7 of the
Chairman's plan of work.

MR. BODY (Australia) stated that the view of his Government was that international organs of a social and welfare character should be made an integral part of the United Nations, either under the Economic and Social Council or as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. Chapters IX and X of the Charter entrusted to the Assembly and the Council certain functions and responsibilities with respect to international social and welfare matters. In some cases there had been a tendency to take insufficient account of these provisions in the establishment of international organizations. Several Delegates had expressed strong arguments in favour of this view and, rather than elaborate it further, he would merely draw the Committee's attention to some of the disadvantages of a specialized agency; namely that it would cost more in money and want more in personnel, moreover since it would presumably establish its own constitution and methods of work it could not be so effectively controlled as an instrument directly responsible to one of the main organs of the United Nations. On the financial side, too, it would be preferable that the budget of the future organization be consolidated with the United Nations budget.

If, however, the Committee decided to recommend the creation of a specialized agency, he considered that this agency should be established

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at a conference convened by the Economic and Social Council and should be linked in all phases of its work as closely as possible with the Council. Its budget should be subject to the supervision of the United Nations through the Council.

However, whatever form was agreed upon, it must be recognized that the problem was an urgent one and that the machinery for its solution must be established as quickly as possible.

MR. WARREN (United States) stated that he would like to clarify certain points in his speech at the 15th Meeting (E/REF/37) in view of some of the comments which had been made on it.

In his remarks on resettlement (paragraph 12 of E/REF/37) he had wished to stress that the resettlement programme of the future organization should be as specific as possible so that national legislative assemblies should have a proper understanding of the purposes for which they were being asked to allocate funds. In the case of his own government he knew that Congress would closely scrutinize the budget of the new organization before giving its approval and committing itself to regular contributions according to a pro rata scale. In his experience, resettlement had proved to be a long-term and expensive process. The cost of settling individual refugees in uninhabited areas had been estimated at between \$1500 and \$7500 per year for each family unit. On this basis the expenses for the mass resettlement would indeed be astronomical, even though individual migration would of course be taking place simultaneously and would reduce the numbers considerably. It would therefore be advisable for the future organization to work out definite projects of resettlement, projects which would include the estimated cost, the numbers of refugees involved, the deficit required from international funds etc.

With regard to the structure to be recommended for the future refugee organization, Mr. Warren felt that it was essential that the organization be able to make and implement its own decisions promptly and that Members examine its financial requirements separately of other international obligations. It must be anticipated that individual governments would wish to consider their contributions towards the care of refugees and displaced persons independently of their contributions to the Administrative budget of the United Nations. Moreover, it could be expected that contributions would vary, some governments by providing temporary asylum, some by receiving permanent settlers, and others by giving cash. To attempt to integrate these different kinds of contributions with the pro rata scale of contributions to the Administrative expenses of the United Nations would create hopeless confusion.

Mr. Warren considered that the transfer of the work of the existing agencies to the future organization would be greatly facilitated if that body were not embedded in the elaborate and complex machinery of the United Nations. A specialized or autonomous agency would permit all members of the United Nations to participate as members while a smaller governing body could conduct actual operations. The large membership necessitated by a commission of the General Assembly might make practical operations difficult, while a smaller commission would restrict the participation of non-members. The Economic and Social Council had, however, under the Charter definite responsibilities for co-ordinating social and humanitarian work of which the care of refugees was an important part. It would therefore, be necessary that the new body report frequently to the Council and be guided by its recommendations and comments, but it should not be related so rigidly that its initiative and capacity to act effectively and resourcefully would be encompassed or destroyed.

The Meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.