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President: Mr. Daniel COSÍO VILLEGAS (Mexico)

Present:

Representatives of the following States: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Spain, Sudan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

Observers for the following Member States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Israel, Italy, Japan, Philippines.

The observer for the following non-member State: Switzerland.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization.

AGENDA ITEM 3

World social situation

- (a) Report of the Social Commission (E/3265/Rev.1; E/CN.5/334 and Add.1-4)
- (b) Survey of programmes of social development (E/CN.5/332)
- (c) General Assembly resolution 1283 (XIII) entitled "International health and medical research year" (E/3281)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. ITURRIAGA (Mexico) said that the difference between the contents of the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* covering the period 1945 to 1953 (E/CN.5/301/Rev.1)¹ and those of the *Survey* for the period 1953 to 1958 (E/CN.5/332) was explained by the fact that the later period was far from being a time of consolidation of the extensive social progress which had been achieved in the immediate post-war years, when several countries today Members of the United Nations had attained independence.

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1955.IV.8.

2. Referring to the report of the Social Commission (E/3265/Rev.1), he said that, though there was no denying the importance of education, nutrition and health, housing was even more important. The resources of governments, of private enterprise and of international organizations were not by themselves enough to solve those vital social problems. With the help of modern propaganda media, it must be brought home to peoples, particularly to country-dwellers in the under-developed countries where underemployment and unemployment were frequent, that they could solve some of their problems by their own efforts with suitable technical assistance. At the same time, all the economic resources of those countries must be mobilized.

3. The Commission's report further recognized that there was a close link between economic and social development, and made it clear that the progressive solution of social problems, particularly in the under-developed countries, depended on a progressive solution of economic problems. One of the main difficulties was the delay in implementing development programmes in education, food production, health and housing in the under-developed countries where population pressure was strongest, while the industrial countries pressed on with the execution of programmes which only benefited a numerically static population. The Commission's report also noted that there could be no perceptible rise in the standard of living of a country unless production increased more rapidly than population. It might well be wondered how that could happen in the under-developed countries if they continued to sell less of their raw materials at lower prices, which meant that they could buy fewer capital goods abroad, particularly as the prices of those goods continued to rise. To find an answer to that problem, it was not enough for international organs to continue year in and year out to make declarations inspired by good intentions but unaccompanied by positive action. The Social Commission's report was excellent, but did not supply enough statistical data to make possible any quantitative assessment of the facts, and he hoped that the next report would remedy that inadequacy.

4. The housing problem in Mexico was less one of quantity than of quality of dwellings. Of all the dwellings covered by the 1950 census, 41.65 per cent were of dried clay (adobe), 19.79 per cent of wood, 13.68 per cent of brick, and the remainder of other materials. There was also the serious problem of over-crowding with its grave social consequences. Despite the efforts of the Government, the problem was far from being solved in Mexico, where, to quote again the figures of the 1950 census of 5,260,000 dwellings, 7.69 per cent contained three rooms or more, 24.4 per cent consisted of two rooms, and 60.31 per cent had only one room.

5. With reference to paragraph 21 of the report of the Social Commission, he stated that in its measures for narrowing the gap between the cost of building and maintaining adequate housing and the rent which low-income families could afford to pay, his country had forestalled the United Nations suggestions and recommendations. For the last seventeen years, the Mexican Government had fixed a price ceiling for the rents of housing for low-income families, thus assisting all those who paid a monthly rent not exceeding 300 pesos. To counteract the tendency of private enterprise to construct dwellings for rental at over 300 pesos, thereby favouring the middle classes, the authorities had constructed dwellings to be rented at less than 300 pesos. Private banks had also built housing of that type, which was paid for by a down payment and instalments. He shared the view referred to in paragraph 33 of the report that in many countries insufficient attention had been given to acquainting the general public with the various facets of the housing problem and with the possibilities of improving their own housing by using local material more rationally and appealing for technical assistance.

6. He pointed out that the introduction to the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* (E/CN.5/332) stated that the "relatively slow expansion of social programmes during recent years may be considered unavoidable or even desirable". He was sure that the people concerned did not consider that slowness desirable; on the contrary they would, if asked their opinion, insist that the implementation of those social programmes should be speeded up. There was no question of showing undue haste but, as the *Survey* stated, excessive awareness of the demands of reality carried with it an excuse for apathy and falling into routine. In fact, the only realism which should inspire the search for a solution of social problems was not to exaggerate the discouraging aspects of reality, but to see reality as it was, in order to eliminate its negative aspects and to stimulate and develop its positive aspects.

7. Mr. CHISTYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the world social situation was of vital interest to all countries, to the United Nations, and to the Council in particular. The Secretary-General had stated (1078th meeting) that economic and social development went hand in hand, since the economic development of a country led to a higher standard of living and to the provision of more social services. He had also drawn attention to the necessity for agrarian reform. The main responsibility for social development programmes lay with governments, which had to decide how much of the national income was to be used for improving the lot of the masses and how much for the provision of armaments. During the economic depression of recent years, the money devoted to armaments would have been better used in reducing taxes and assisting the unemployed. The USSR delegation attached great importance to the meeting of Foreign Ministers that was taking place at Geneva, and to the summit meeting which it hoped would take place, since a successful outcome of those meetings would reduce tension and thereby help to improve the economic and social conditions of people throughout the world.

8. The main purpose of the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* was to provide information for the development of social policies, particularly in the less developed countries, and thus lead to an improvement in the social condition of the masses everywhere by the pooling of experience. However, if the *Survey* were to be really objective and international, the Bureau of Social Affairs, which compiled it, should consist of staff representing all regions of the world and all social classes. The *Survey* at present suffered from a certain obscurity and inexactness, and from several omissions.

9. It was, for example, stated in chapter IX that in eastern Europe both national and local governments were committed to a well-defined policy, and that the initiative of local authorities was exercised within the framework of long-term development plans. On the contrary, in the Soviet Union, centralized control did not limit, but encouraged, local initiative. The views and suggestions of local authorities were taken into account when a long-term plan was being drawn up, and the process of planning began at the local level with the participation of agricultural and industrial workers. Moreover, many steps had been taken in recent years towards decentralization. The Soviet Union was divided into economic regions whose local authorities controlled their economic life. The *Survey* failed to mention state programmes for the financing of social measures, and the Council could not therefore gain from the *Survey* an insight into the true role of a government in the financing and carrying out of programmes of social development.

10. The *Survey* mentioned the need for agrarian reform, on which the Soviet delegation was in entire agreement. Nevertheless, since agrarian reform had recently either slowed down or come to a stop in many countries, his delegation felt that even more stress should have been laid on it.

11. It also appeared from the *Survey* that many governments had not been giving sufficient priority to social programmes. At a time when prices were rising, in many countries national expenditure on such programmes had not increased. Some governments, in their fight against inflation, had actually reduced their budgets for social services. The USSR delegation regretted that trend, since it could only mean sacrifices for the workers.

12. The *Survey* pointed out that the social situation of large numbers of people had been made more difficult by the recent economic setback and its consequent unemployment problem. Many countries which depended for their livelihood on exporting primary products had been affected. Although the situation had more recently become stabilized, the danger of mass unemployment was still present. Measures must therefore be taken to help the unemployed and those earning a very low income, and the United Nations should play its part by drawing attention to the problem.

13. In the Soviet Union there was no unemployment. In the previous seven years, the labour force had increased by 12 million workers to a total of 66.5 million, not including workers on collective farms. During the

previous three years, there had been an increase in salaries for some categories of workers and employees and reductions in the length of the working week and, in some cases, of the working day. Maternity leave and pensions had been increased, and the Government had brought down the prices of mass consumption goods. Altogether the Soviet Government had spent 215,000 million roubles in 1958 on social insurance, pensions, scholarships, medical services, leave payments, schools, kindergartens, sanitation, housing, etc. Government expenditure on those items had increased by more than 60 per cent in the previous five years, and by 1965 was expected to attain 360,000 million roubles.

14. Pensions, which except in the case of collective farm workers, who had their own pension funds, were paid directly by the Government, had amounted to 64,000 million roubles in 1958, almost two and a half times the figure in 1953.

15. The number of persons being educated had increased to over 50 million. In 1959, eight-year compulsory education had been introduced. There were now 766 universities and colleges and 3,344 technical schools and other secondary educational establishments where more than 4 million persons were being trained. Ninety-four thousand engineers had been trained in 1958, and the total number of specialists who had received higher or secondary special education amounted to 7.5 million. By the end of 1958 there were more than 280,000 scientific workers throughout the country. The new seven-year plan provided for further increases in 1959-1965.

16. Great attention was paid in the Soviet Union to medical and health services. Workers received free medical services, which included a large number of clinics, hospitals and sanatoria, and if necessary were sent free of charge to rest centres. In 1958 there had been 362,000 doctors and 1,200,000 medical employees in the Soviet Union. The Government was particularly concerned with the health of youth; there were 1,092 sanatoria for children, and in 1959 more than 3 million children had attended pioneers' camps. By the end of the seven-year plan there would be over 4 million children in kindergartens. As a result of those increases in health services, child mortality was seven times less than in 1917, and 4.5 times less than in 1940. In addition, the Soviet Union should be added to the list of countries in the *Survey* which had eradicated malaria.

17. Great stress was being laid on the provision of housing for workers. Average rents amounted to no more than 4 to 5 per cent of family budgets. In the previous two years, 120 million square metres of apartments had been built, and in 1957 the Soviet Union had constructed more housing units than all the countries of western Europe put together. Under the new seven-year plan, a further 15 million apartments and 7 million houses would be built. Altogether, a total of about 380,000 million roubles would be spent on housing during the period.

18. Per caput real income, taking into account the sums spent on free education and social services in general, had doubled from 1940 to 1958, while the income of agricultural workers had more than doubled. The new seven-year plan provided for further increases

in *per caput* income and pensions, together with reductions in taxes and the working week. In 1960 the average work day would be reduced to seven hours, and for miners to six hours. In 1962 the forty-hour week would be introduced for those working a seven-hour day. In 1964 there would be a gradual change to a thirty-hour week for those working underground or in dangerous industries, and a thirty-five-hour week for all others. All that would be accomplished without any fall in wages.

19. The Council had proposed in its resolution 663 E (XXIV) that the Secretary-General should study the scope and organization of reports on the world social situation, and should publish them more frequently than at present. The USSR delegation felt that those reports should not be published separately from the *Survey*, and that the whole should be made shorter and simpler. The combining of the two documents in one would give a much better picture of the social situation throughout the world.

20. As had been stated in the previous *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development* (E/CN.5/301/Rev.1), there was a considerable difference between methods employed for studying and solving social problems. According to that survey, the more highly centralized countries could include in their plans all aspects of social development. Other countries did not think it necessary to have such centralized overall control. That was a true statement. Some countries devoted a large part of their national budgets to social programmes — in the Soviet Union, for example, more than one-third of the budget, or 232,000 million roubles, went to satisfy the social and cultural needs of the population. Some other countries, however, devoted only a small part of their national budget to social programmes. An increase in their national income did not lead to an increase in expenditure on social measures, and an increase in taxes did not mean that new social needs were being met.

21. The USSR delegation could not agree with the view expressed in the introduction to the latest *Survey* (E/CN.5/332) that the slowing down in the development of social programmes since 1953 had been unavoidable since governments had in the previous period adopted programmes beyond their means. Governments should distribute the national wealth in such a way that the living conditions of the whole population were improved. The *Survey* drew attention to certain trends towards a greater participation by governments in certain social fields. As far as the USSR delegation could see, that participation was largely confined to co-ordination and to the provision of a certain amount of financial support for voluntary organizations. That fell far short of what was necessary. The USSR delegation noted with satisfaction that many newly independent countries were making every possible effort to improve the social conditions of their peoples.

22. The Council should recommend to governments the adoption of measures to increase the part of their budgets devoted to social matters, and specifically to pursue policies leading to higher educational standards, cheaper medical services, more and lower-priced housing,

and more highly developed social insurance schemes. It should also recommend the Secretary-General to ask governments to provide information on their financing of social measures and programmes, so that he could draw up a detailed report showing how much of the national income was devoted to social matters, and the share provided by central governments and local governments respectively in their budgets.

23. The Soviet Union delegation would later introduce a draft resolution² which it hoped would obtain the support of the Council.

24. Mr. TSAO (China) said that the period reviewed in the *Survey* had not been a very encouraging one. While satisfactory progress had been made in public health, nutrition and education, much remained to be done, particularly in housing, social services and social defence.

25. One of the most striking successes in public health had been the malaria eradication programmes which were being carried out, or had been completed, in more than fifty countries and territories with a total population of 958 million people. Similar programmes were being planned in some fifteen countries and territories, and eventually more than a thousand million people would be protected against malaria. In the province of Taiwan, 85 per cent of all persons under the age of 25 had received tuberculin tests, and 45 per cent had been vaccinated with BCG — the highest ratio in that region. The success of the campaign was due to the 22 health centres and 368 health stations in the province, which were essential instruments for carrying out mass campaigns in public health. He was glad to note that similar stations were now being established in most of the countries undertaking such campaigns. He paid tribute to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to the World Health Organization (WHO) and to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for their unified and untiring efforts in assisting the less developed countries throughout the past ten years.

26. During the past five years, notable progress had also been achieved in the promotion of primary education and the abolition of illiteracy. It was encouraging to note that the principle of compulsory primary education had gained general acceptance. A sound school system was of primary importance, not only for its own sake but also because school systems were often ideal media through which social programmes could be effectively carried out. One of the reasons for the success of child-welfare programmes in Taiwan was that 94 per cent of children of school age attended school.

27. The less bright side of the picture was that no comparable progress had been achieved in many programmes of social development, particularly in housing, social services and social defence. Such obstacles as the lack of resources and a high cost of living might be common to all countries, but inadequate public administration services, the lack of trained personnel, low productivity and a general absence of social awareness were encountered most frequently in the under-developed

countries. Moreover, those countries were also faced with the problems of rapid urbanization and population growth, which were often interrelated. Population growth complicated problems arising from urbanization, and low productivity contributed directly to a high cost of living. The main obstacles often varied greatly from region to region, and even from country to country. Those points should be borne in mind by the administrators, national and international, who planned and executed social programmes.

28. Although the housing problem had occupied the United Nations for a number of years, it had been considered that year for the first time on a long-term basis, by the Social Commission, and met by a programme of concerted international action. The Secretary-General's report on a long-range programme of concerted international action in the field of low-cost housing and related community facilities (E/CN.5/339) was excellent, and the delegation of China wished to express its general approval of the proposed long-term programme, which would have to be examined in detail by governments.

29. Although the housing problem concerned both the under-developed and the highly industrialized countries, the problems of the two groups were often quite different. In order to concentrate efforts and make the best use of limited international resources, some caution should be exercised at the beginning of a long-range enterprise dealing with such a wide and complex matter. Sufficient technical studies had already been made, and future activities should take the form of direct assistance to governments, particularly those of the less developed countries. National or regional seminars should be held in order to cover identical or similar problems. For the same reason, fellowships should be granted for study in neighbouring countries with similar conditions but a higher standard of housing.

30. The functions of the former International Penal and Penitentiary Commission (IPPC) had been transferred ten years previously to the United Nations by General Assembly resolution 415 (V). The transfer had had three principal aims: to affirm the leadership of the United Nations in social defence; to expand the scope of the activities then carried on by IPPC; and to assist the under-developed countries in solving their particular problems. Little progress had been made towards achieving those three aims. In making his suggestions for a new approach to the problem (E/CN.5/340, paras. 11-13), the Secretary-General had been guided by two major considerations: more United Nations resources should be concentrated on practical action to help governments to improve their services for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders; and, while all essential activities should remain the responsibility of the United Nations, greater reliance should be placed on the co-operation of the non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations active in the field, and, in order to facilitate such co-operation, some of the present headquarters staff should be moved to the European Office. The delegation of China fully supported the Secretary-General's first consideration and consequently the proposal to establish two regional institutes, one in Asia and the other in Latin America. As for the second consideration, he appreciated the value and importance

² Subsequently submitted as document E/L.838.

of the co-operation of the non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations in Europe, but had some doubts about the necessity and wisdom of moving a greater part of the present staff from Headquarters to the European Office. Social defence was closely related to other questions such as industrialization, urbanization, housing and community development, and consultation and co-operation were just as important within the United Nations as with non-governmental or inter-governmental organizations. Furthermore, if the future work programme were concentrated on technical assistance and the development of regional institutes, it was only natural that a considerable part of the staff should remain at Headquarters. He hoped that, in making future arrangements, the Secretary-General would give due consideration to the original purposes of transferring the functions of IPPC to the United Nations, and that United Nations leadership would become a reality.

31. His delegation was gratified by the increasing attention given to programmes of social development, both by governments and by international bodies. The inclusion of the social aspects of economic development in the work programmes of the regional economic commissions in Africa, Asia and Latin America represented an advance. Much, however, remained to be done. The time had come for United Nations to shift the emphasis of its work from research and studies to direct assistance. In future studies of programmes of social development, their implications should never be forgotten. They should be evaluated in terms not only of statistics but also of their effects on the life of the people. It would be more logical and meaningful if, in future surveys, the programmes of under-developed countries were kept distinct from those of highly industrialized countries. Furthermore, the preparation of surveys should not be limited to the compilation of information and the casual indication of trends. They should contain considered conclusions showing the fields in which social programmes were more successful, and those in which they were inadequate, and should indicate what the United Nations could do to assist countries to develop their programmes.

32. Sir Samuel HOARE (United Kingdom) said that the first impression made by the *Survey* was the great variety and scope of social development programmes. Thirteen chapters were devoted to programmes sufficiently specialized to deserve separate treatment; yet in few if any of them could any country claim to have fully attained its goals, and in practically every one of them under-developed countries were faced with pressing problems. The chapter on community development was a good example of the differences in emphasis and method in the practical application of a general concept.

33. The most important question raised by the *Survey* was the extent to which progress had been made in social development programmes since 1953. It was difficult to appraise that progress, both because the under-developed countries could not furnish adequate statistical data about social development, and because social development was a field in which criteria for assessment were notoriously difficult to devise and apply. Moreover, many of the programmes were long-term and it was too

early to assess their results. The *Survey* was thus more concerned with indicating or illustrating various programmes than with assessing their success or failure.

34. Nevertheless, the introduction and some of the chapters, notably that on public administration and social development, admitted with refreshing frankness that there had been failures as well as successes, and that there was a gap between conception and execution which had not always been successfully bridged. Among the reasons were flagging of initial enthusiasm, lack of sufficient financial support, changes in administrative personnel, and inadequate administrative structure. Some such wastage was to be expected in the conversion of good intentions into action in under-developed countries.

35. The introduction was equally realistic about the major difficulty of achieving balanced economic and social development. The most general aim of social development was to raise the level of living in under-developed countries — an aim which itself indicated how closely social development must be bound up with economic development. The introduction stated that the problem facing the under-developed countries was how to transform their economies and provide adequate social services in tradition-bound rural societies under conditions of mass poverty and accelerating population growth. In spite of recent progress, the under-developed countries were still far from finding a solution to that problem. It was therefore appropriate that the main subject of the report on the world social situation due to appear in two years should be the balance between economic and social development. He hoped that the report would throw some light on those unresolved problems.

36. The *Survey* showed evidence of progress in at least one respect: the improved understanding of the difficult problems of social development. Governments were beginning to realize that rural backwardness and urbanization problems had to be considered in conjunction. Experience had accumulated in regard to the working of community development which might, as the *Survey* stated, have dashed the hopes of those who had regarded the movement as a panacea, but provided a firm basis for less ambitious progress. The *Survey* suggested that the lessons of experience were being learnt, even if at the cost of some disillusionment.

37. The guidance offered by the *Survey* in respect to the direction of United Nations activities in the social field had been taken into account in the programme of work (E/3265/Rev.1, annex II), which would be discussed in more detail when the report of the Social Commission was considered in the Social Committee. Thus the information given in the chapter on housing was reflected in the programme of studies in low-cost housing and the use of self-help techniques, which formed an important new element in the work programme. Surveys were contemplated in various regions on the important and difficult problems created by urbanization. The major question of balance in economic and social planning was also the subject of a study programme.

38. The *Survey* as a whole had been well prepared and presented. There were some, perhaps inevitable, inaccuracies, and his government had drawn the attention of the Secretariat to those concerning the United Kingdom.

39. Surveys of the type under review had been instituted not only to provide a general stocktaking of the state of social development programmes, but also to help countries to benefit from one another's experiences, and to provide information useful to the under-developed countries in the planning of their social policies. The question whether the surveys were adequately fulfilling those purposes should be addressed to the representatives of under-developed countries. Some presentation other than the present citation of examples arranged under suitable headings might be more useful to those countries. They might find the treatment of a few subjects in considerable detail more valuable than the present attempt to cover the whole field. On the other hand, there was a case for less division by subjects and a broader treatment. There was also the question whether the available information was sufficient to enable greater attention to be given to factors which had led to successful social development in particular fields, and to factors the neglect of which had contributed to difficulty or failure. A list of those would be invaluable but might prove impracticable to produce. Any attempt to increase the usefulness of the survey should not add to the Secretariat's burden; changes should be in the direction of concentration rather than expansion.

40. Mr. RAJAABELINA (France) observed that the *International Survey of Programmes of Social Development*, the substance of which the French delegation approved, covered a period which had not seen such marked social achievements as had distinguished the period immediately following the war. The world was at present experiencing a pause in social development, and the period reviewed in the *Survey* was mainly one of application, in which an attempt had been made to put into practice the principles underlying new social welfare legislation.

41. At the application stage, difficulties were bound to arise. Realizing the need to define and analyse them, the Social Commission had listed the main obstacles to social development (E/3265/Rev.1, para. 51). The problem was complex and required careful consideration. Accordingly the French delegation had suggested in the Social Commission that a further survey should be undertaken in order to assess objectively the difficulties encountered by various countries in social progress. That suggestions had been reflected in the draft resolution entitled "International survey of programmes of social development" recommended to the Council in the Commission's report (E/3265/Rev.1). Such a survey would be useful, not only to the participating countries but also to countries — particularly the less developed — which would benefit from their experience. The question was of personal interest to him because he belonged to the Malagasy Republic, which, like the other countries in the Community, had full powers in social welfare matters. The pause in social activity would probably be short because there

were already symptoms of a social revival. In France, attention was being given to the promotion of social welfare for workers. Various projects had been adopted and others were nearing completion, and the countries of the Community, which had inherited their social welfare legislation from the French Republic, intended to pursue the course mapped out for them, with the necessary allowances for special conditions.

42. The work of social development placed a heavy burden on other young countries which were less developed socially, and it was to be hoped that international assistance would enable them to overcome their difficulties and to solve their problems. Certainly, in dealing with those problems training was of special importance. The French representative in the Social Commission had pointed out that *Training for Social Work: Third International Survey* (E/CN.5/331)³ was not, strictly speaking, an international survey but more an account of the social service and training methods employed in certain countries. Those methods were undoubtedly of interest, but the survey might be more useful if the field of research had been broadened. For instance, it would be a mistake to underestimate the importance in many countries, such as France, of the social framework provided by social security institutions, or the part played in social welfare by trade unions, professional organizations and associations of heads of families. A United Nations survey could only be considered genuinely international if it took all those factors into account.

43. In the draft resolution on social services recommended to the Council by the Social Commission in its report (E/3265/Rev.1), provision was made for convening an expert group of key national social welfare officials to analyse recent national experience and to identify underlying principles and effective methods in the organization and administration of social services. The French delegation was in favour of convening such a group, but none the less considered that, if the group was to be really of use, it would have to be truly international and the different schools of thought would have to be represented on it. Bearing in mind the problems which confronted the Malagasy Republic and other countries of the Community, he expressed the hope that France would be invited to participate in the group. He would make a further statement in the debate, particularly when the resolutions before the Council were discussed.

44. Mr. FARUQI (Pakistan) emphasized the importance of the increasing national and international attention paid to economic and social development. During the period of reconstruction after the Second World War, more attention had been paid to the broader issues of such development than to mere relief measures. New nations had emerged, arousing popular hopes and demands for freedom from want. The establishment of the "welfare state" had become one of the popular goals of all political, economic and social policies. Vigorous and ambitious plans for social development could be undertaken in the developed areas, but in the under-

³ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59.IV.1.

developed countries resources were limited, and priority had had to be given to increasing production at the lowest possible cost. Those countries had been unable to launch ambitious social development programmes until the national income had met the prior needs of economic development, which had to be paid for with human suffering. While it was true that social problems were interwoven with economic resources and needs, the most important measures for the teeming millions who lived constantly on the verge of starvation were those which considerably improved their productive capacity. In under-developed countries, plans for social development could therefore be only supplementary to plans for economic development.

45. He congratulated the United Nations Secretariat, the International Labour Office, FAO, UNESCO and WHO on the excellent *Survey* they had prepared. It rightly pointed out that social development programmes had had to compete for attention and funds with armaments and experiments with rockets and nuclear weapons. Internal as well as international political crises had in many countries frustrated new initiatives or threatened existing social achievements. Various governments had tried to overcome deficits and inflationary pressures by curtailing their development programmes — a policy which had had serious social effects. In recent years an economic recession in some of the major industrialized countries had led to mass unemployment and had adversely affected the economic and social development programmes of the primary producing countries. In spite of recent progress, the under-developed countries were still far from a solution of the major problem of finding means to transform their economies and provide adequate social services. Public health measures and the control of endemic diseases, together with increasing food supplies, were reducing infantile mortality and increasing longevity; the gap between birth rates and death rates had thus continued to widen. However, the level of living of a people could only rise if production increased more rapidly than population. Some under-developed countries were therefore concentrating their attention on increasing food production and on family planning.

46. The Government of Pakistan had introduced far-reaching land reforms which would ensure better production, more social justice, and security of tenure for those engaged in agriculture. Those measures would pave the way for the development of a healthy rural society. In the social sector, priority was being given

to the rehabilitation of displaced persons, for whom a comprehensive housing programme had been formulated. A survey of displaced persons in Karachi had shown that 119,402 families, comprising 527,535 persons, were living in refugee colonies and hutments scattered all over the metropolis. Steps were being taken by the Government to provide respectable housing for refugees living in slums and temporary hutments, and to assess and settle the claims of displaced persons who had abandoned their property in India. Work had already started on a 120-million-rupee project to build, within a few months, 40,000 dwellings for displaced persons; 33,000 of those were at present being built at Korangi, near Karachi. The Government had encouraged and assisted family-planning associations in their work of educating the masses.

47. A new eleven-point labour policy was designed to achieve increased production, equitable distribution of wealth, better working conditions and the healthy growth of trade unionism and other labour traditions in accordance with ILO conventions. The Government was considering a tax on commercial, industrial and other private establishments in order to raise funds to organize workers' welfare programmes.

48. A commission had been set up to recommend measures for reorganizing the educational system so as to ensure the integrated and balanced development of education. The Government was also using all available resources to meet the needs of the people, most of whom lived in villages. One-sixth of the population had already come under the village aid programme, which operated through more than 100 units functioning in as many development areas, each with an average population of about 120,000. The programme was scheduled to embrace about 70 per cent of the entire population by the end of the second five-year plan. The expansion of the movement was limited by the number of trained village workers available.

49. He would like more time for consideration before taking up the United Kingdom representative's encouraging suggestion that the representatives of under-developed countries should indicate means of improving the surveys. It would, however, be useful to those countries if the Secretariat could find out whether the social measures they were taking were comparable to their economic achievements.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.