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President: Mr. George DAVIDSON (Canada).

Present:

The representatives of the following states: Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

Observers from the following States: Albania, Argentina, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Iran, Ireland, New Zealand, Philippines, Romania, Spain.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organisation; World Health Organization; World Meteorological Organization.

The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Economic development of under-developed countries
(continued)

WATER RESOURCES (E/3058, E/3066, E/3070, E/3071)
(continued)

1. Mr. PSCOLKA (Czechoslovakia) said that, as a highly industrialized country, Czechoslovakia was predominantly interested in developing its total reserves of hydroelectric power to supplement the output of the thermal stations and thus conserve coal which was becoming increasingly important as a raw material for the chemical industry. While thermal stations still accounted for about 85 per cent of the total output of electricity, great strides had been made in the building of hydroelectric stations. He gave figures to show the great increase in water storage capacity and hydroelectric power output since the war. His Government was greatly interested in the vast Danube project that had been under study for years in co-operation with other neighbouring countries.

2. Other aspects of the water resources problem, such as irrigation, drainage and flood control were also of interest to his country. Work in those fields offered tremendous potentialities for international economic and technical co-operation. His Government wished to stress its active interest in, and its willingness to contribute to, the practical solution of water resource development problems on an international scale. As an exporter of heavy machinery and equipment, his country had in mind the particular needs of developing countries seeking investment goods, without which the effective use of water resources was generally impossible. It highly appreciated the work of the regional economic commissions and especially the Economic Commission for Europe. He hoped that the accumulated

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experience of the regional economic commissions would be utilized fully on major projects, such as the Mekong and Danube river projects, where international action could achieve spectacular results.

3. Through the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA) his Government had made a useful contribution to the development of international co-operation on water resources. In 1956 a group of Asian power experts had visited his country under the auspices of TAA and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, and an International Seminar on Flood Control, Drains and Irrigation was about to be held in Czechoslovakia. It would be attended by specialists from twenty countries.

4. The documents before the Council were very useful and instructive and would be studied further at universities and research institutes in Czechoslovakia.

5. Mr. DE ALMEIDA (Brazil) said that, having few other sources of energy, his country was making great efforts to develop its hydroelectric power potential. By 1961 installed capacity would be double that in 1951 and further works had been started. A significant feature of the new works was the great increase in the size of the power stations, which would reduce the cost of electricity per kilowatt and lead to considerable improvements in navigation, irrigation and water use generally. The existing installed capacity would be put to better use through greater regularity in the flow of water at different times of the year. Two new developments, the Tres Marias and Furnas plants, were of particular importance.

6. One of his country's problems was that, while it had abundant water resources, they were very badly distributed. Too much water in the Amazon area was offset by too little in the north-east of the country where droughts periodically forced hundreds of thousands of people to abandon their land. An engineering problem arose in the south where the rivers flowed from the coast to the interior and some of their headwaters had to be pumped out to the sea.

7. His delegation was impressed by the volume and quality of the work done by the United Nations. Water resources development required increased international co-operation and his Government supported the proposal that the World Meteorological Organization should take over certain basic hydrologic responsibilities. The statement by the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) at the previous meeting was very pertinent. Irrigation works undoubtedly involved the dangers of malaria and the spread of bilharzia, and co-operation with WHO and other technical agencies should be ensured.

8. The PRESIDENT declared the general debate on water resources closed and said that if there were no objections the question would be referred to the Economic Committee for detailed consideration.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.