

2032nd meeting

Monday, 19 November 1973, at 4 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.2032

AGENDA ITEM 62

World social situation of youth: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/9003 and Corr.1, chap. XXI, sect. A.8; A/9119 and Corr.1, A/C.3/L.2052, 2061-2063, 2065-2069, E/CN.5/486 and Corr.1, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and E/CN.5/486/Summary and Corr.1)

1. Mr. CRISTESCU (Romania) informed the Committee of the amendments which had been accepted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061 at an informal meeting held before the current meeting. The first of those amendments related to the title, which had been expanded by the insertion of the words "and international" before the word "development". The sponsors had also accepted the amendments submitted by Cameroon in document A/C.3/L.2063. As to the United States amendments (A/C.3/L.2065), the sponsors were able to accept the first of those amendments and the United States delegation was not insisting on the second; as far as the third amendment was concerned, the following wording had been agreed on for the paragraph in question:

"Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with Governments, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, to assemble data on the problems confronting youth and the manner in which those problems are being treated by the organs and bodies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report designed to facilitate planning, especially for developing countries, and to submit it through the Commission for Social Development to the . . . session of the General Assembly".

The exact number of the session of the General Assembly would be decided upon later.

2. The sponsors also accepted the first three amendments of Trinidad and Tobago as contained in the provisional version of document A/C.3/L.2066, together with the three oral amendments proposed by the delegation of Egypt at the preceding meeting, whereby the word "national" would be inserted between the words "individual" and "social" in the new fifth preambular paragraph; the word "has" would be replaced by the words "can play" in the new sixth preambular paragraph; and the words "and its role is fully effected" would be added to the new seventh preambular paragraph.

3. Mrs. HEANEY (Ireland) said that her delegation had difficulties with the amendment proposed by the German Democratic Republic (A/C.3/L.2068) and with the fourth amendment of Trinidad and Tobago in the provisional version of document A/C.3/L.2066. She felt that, in both cases, and with regard to different points, the general had been sacrificed to the specific. The amendment of the German Democratic Republic referred specifically to the Tenth Festival of Youth and Students held in Berlin and omitted all reference to

many other similar festivals. She felt that that constituted a form of discrimination, particularly since the festival in question had not been sponsored by the United Nations.

4. The amendment of Trinidad and Tobago made special mention of some phenomena and ignored others, such as drinking and smoking, which also constituted hazards to youth. Consequently, her delegation felt that the initial wording of the passage was better. Furthermore, she did not approve of the juxtaposition of two negative elements—communicable diseases and drug abuse—with a positive element, as family planning undoubtedly was. With regard to operative paragraph 2 (b) of the initial text of the draft resolution, she would suggest, without making a formal proposal to that effect, that the words "including information services" should be added at the end of the passage. If the suggestion proved unacceptable, her delegation would prefer the initial wording.

5. Mr. BIRBAUM (Austria) suggested, in a spirit of conciliation, that, if the delegation of Romania, the other sponsors and the Committee as a whole agreed, the amendment of the German Democratic Republic (A/C.3/L.2068) might be accepted if the reference to a specific festival was omitted.

6. Mr. COSTA COUTO (Brazil), referring to the amendment contained in document A/C.3/L.2068, also wished to point out, as had the delegation of Ireland, that the Berlin Festival mentioned in that amendment had not been sponsored by the United Nations. His delegation had no information about that festival, to which his country had sent no representatives, and could not accept the reference made to it. Since it would be preferable if the Committee could adopt the draft resolution unanimously, he urged acceptance of the suggestion made by the representative of Austria, calling for the deletion of the reference to the Berlin Festival.

7. As to the fourth amendment of Trinidad and Tobago in the provisional version of document A/C.3/L.2066, he did not know whether the delegation of that country was prepared to accept the subamendment proposed by Ireland. The Brazilian delegation felt that it would be inappropriate to emphasize points which were of priority concern to some countries but not to others. One suggestion, which he considered sound, had been made to the effect that the reference to communicable diseases, drugs, etc., should be replaced by a reference to "national priorities". In any case, he felt that it was important to emphasize the need to inform youth about the problems they were apt to encounter.

8. Mr. GRAEFRATH (German Democratic Republic) said that he was sorry that a number of delegations had not had occasion to send representatives to the Tenth Festival of Youth and Students, held in Berlin; however, he appreciated the misgivings of those who

did not wish any particular event to be singled out and, in a spirit of compromise, could agree that the specific reference to that Festival in the paragraph proposed in his amendment (A/C.3/L.2068) should be deleted and replaced by a reference to "international festivals of youth and students".

9. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Cyprus) thought that it would suffice to refer to festivals of youth, and that the words "and students" could be deleted.

10. Mrs. MARICO (Mali) said that she could accept the amendment of the German Democratic Republic in the form just suggested by the representative of that country.

11. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt), speaking on a point of procedure, said that it might be preferable to consider the draft resolution paragraph by paragraph. He was happy to note that the new wording of the amendment of the German Democratic Republic was acceptable. With regard to the fourth amendment submitted by Trinidad and Tobago to operative paragraph 2 (b), in the provisional version of document A/C.3/L.2066, he suggested that the last part of the sentence, following the words "taking advantage", should be replaced by the words: "of such services, as well as to increase information relating to diseases such as communicable diseases, narcotic drug diseases and also to information concerning population programmes".

12. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Cyprus) appealed to the representative of the German Democratic Republic not to insist on the inclusion of the words "and students" in his amendment (A/C.3/L.2068).

13. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the discussion had been made difficult by the large number of amendments and subamendments to the draft resolution. The delegation of the Soviet Union would accept the new preambular paragraph proposed in the first of the amendments of the delegation of Cameroon (A/C.3/L.2063). However, his delegation found itself in some difficulty with regard to the first amendment to operative paragraph 3, proposed by the United States (see A/C.3/L.2065). That paragraph constituted a direct appeal to international and regional organizations, whereas the United States amendment referred to youth in general, and did not make any specific reference to organizations. The specific appeal to youth organizations was appropriate from the practical point of view, and consequently the initial wording of the paragraph was more in keeping with the general tone of the draft. The new paragraph 7 proposed in the third United States amendment (*ibid.*) referred simply to "non-governmental organizations", of which there were many. It would be preferable to make that reference more specific by adding the word "interested" and, in order to make it clear that the non-governmental organizations referred to were those which had a connexion with the United Nations system, the words "having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council" should also be added.

14. As far as procedure was concerned, the statement made by the representative of Romania indicated that the sponsors had considered only some amendments, mainly those contained in document A/C.3/L.2065 and some of those contained in the provisional version of document A/C.3/L.2066. He therefore wondered whether the other amendments would be considered at

the current meeting or whether the sponsors would consider them later on.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that the amendments to the draft resolution were before the Committee for its consideration. The sponsors had already considered some of them and had agreed to certain changes, which had been incorporated into the draft resolution.

16. Mr. SHAFQAT (Pakistan) suggested that, in the amendment of the German Democratic Republic (A/C.3/L.2068), as revised by the representative of that country, the words "of youth and students" should be replaced by the words "of the young".

17. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the Danish amendment (A/C.3/L.2069) to operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061, said that he had no difficulty with the first part of the amendment, but he doubted the desirability of requesting the Commission on Human Rights or, as the Egyptian representative had suggested at the preceding meeting, the Commission for Social Development to take into consideration the declaration listed in the amendment. With regard to the reference to the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Youth, that group had been established at the previous session to assist the Secretary-General in matters relating to youth, and all its efforts should be concentrated in that field. He also had difficulty with the reference to the opinions expressed by interested non-governmental organizations. He considered that the details given in the second part of the amendment were superfluous, and he appealed to the Danish representative to withdraw it.

18. He failed to understand the doubts of some representatives regarding the amendment submitted by the German Democratic Republic (A/C.3/L.2068). Youth festivals were very representative gatherings, as could be seen by comparing the attendance figures for the Tenth Festival at Berlin with those for the Seminar on Youth and Human Rights, held at San Remo. At the latter only 28 European countries had been represented, whereas representatives from over 120 countries all over the world had taken part in the Berlin Festival. The Soviet delegation had no objection to the inclusion of the reference to the Tenth Festival at Berlin.

19. Mr. FØNS BUHL (Denmark) said that the main purpose of the amendment submitted by his delegation (A/C.3/L.2069) to operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061 was to provide some guidance for the work of the Commission on Human Rights and to stress that youth formed an integral part of society. He considered it important to maintain the last part of the amendment, and in that connexion cited paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3022 (XXVII), and Economic and Social Council resolution 1752 (LIV).

20. Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that health policies were of particular concern to her delegation. In view of the opinions expressed in the Committee, she would be willing to accept the following text for the fourth of her delegation's amendments in the provisional version of document A/C.3/L.2066, concerning operative paragraph 2 (b) of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061:

"To formulate, where necessary, and to improve and implement health policies and programmes in

line with national priorities which will ensure young people taking advantage and benefiting from the information available to them”.

21. Mr. ABSOLUM (New Zealand) said that the amendment submitted by Trinidad and Tobago to operative paragraph 2 (b) in the provisional version of document A/C.3/L.2066 was more appropriate in his opinion, because it stressed specific health problems affecting young people, although he appreciated that some countries had reservations about it. He found the compromise text accepted by Trinidad and Tobago disappointing, and suggested the following wording to replace it:

“To formulate health policies and implement health programmes and, where appropriate and in accordance with national priorities, to make available information and services relating to communicable diseases, narcotic drugs and population programmes, in order to ensure that young people are able to take advantage of the opportunities open to them.”

That wording might help to overcome the difficulties experienced by some delegations.

22. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) said that the fourth amendment of Trinidad and Tobago drew attention to definite problems affecting young people and if some countries were not currently facing those problems, they might have to do so later on. She agreed with the representative of New Zealand that the compromise text of Trinidad and Tobago did not reflect that concern, since it was necessary not merely to make information available but also to provide services.

23. Mr. COSTA COUTO (Brazil) said he did not understand why, when Trinidad and Tobago had accepted a compromise text, other representatives should wish to reintroduce the initial text of the amendment. He respected the viewpoint of those delegations, but considered that countries concerned with particular problems could interpret the resolution in terms of their own interests, and that would facilitate the task of each country. Some problems might be very important for one country but less important for others, where it was not necessary to give them priority. If delegations insisted on stressing certain specific problems, Brazil could propose others which it considered more important.

24. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) replied that her delegation, as a sponsor of the draft resolution, could decline to include the compromise text of Trinidad and Tobago in the draft, if it was not satisfied with it.

25. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that if the sponsors did not accept certain amendments, those amendments would be put to the vote.

26. Mr. ABSOLUM (New Zealand), replying to the Brazilian representative's remark about the undesirability of giving priority to specific problems in operative paragraph 2 (b) of the draft resolution, said that in many countries the three problems mentioned in the amendment of Trinidad and Tobago in question were particularly important to young people and should therefore be mentioned specifically. Furthermore, the text he had proposed contained the phrase “where appropriate and in accordance with national priorities”. Consequently, New Zealand wished to submit its text as a subamend-

ment to the revised amendment of Trinidad and Tobago.

27. Mr. CRISTESCU (Romania) urged the sponsors of the draft resolution and Trinidad and Tobago to accept the wording suggested by New Zealand, with a slight change whereby the passage would read: “To formulate health policies and implement health programmes and, where appropriate and in accordance with national priorities, to make available information and services in order to ensure that young people are mentally and physically able to take advantage of the opportunities open to them.”

28. Mr. ABSOLUM (New Zealand) thanked the Romanian representative for his suggestion. However, if the words “communicable diseases, narcotic drugs and population programmes” were deleted, the effect of the subamendment would be nullified. He therefore preferred the wording proposed by his own delegation.

29. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the amendment in document A/C.3/L.2069, said that the General Assembly, in resolution 3022 (XXVII), had enumerated the tasks to be assigned to the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Youth and had not included among them the task of making recommendations to the Secretary-General. Furthermore, some non-governmental organizations had not submitted recommendations on the subject and those which had done so had submitted so many, and such conflicting recommendations, that it was impossible to reconcile them. He therefore considered that the last part of the proposed text should be deleted.

30. Mr. FØNS BUHL (Denmark) replied that although it was true that the mandate of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Group on Youth covered specific tasks, it was also true that paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 3022 (XXVII) stated that the Group should advise the Secretary-General on activities that should be undertaken by the United Nations to meet the needs and aspirations of youth. He therefore considered it appropriate to mention the Advisory Group as one of the bodies which should submit recommendations to the Secretary-General on the question.

31. At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. LÜTEM (Secretary of the Committee) read out draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061 together with the amendments introduced orally, and the other amendments which the Committee had before it.

32. Mr. GRAEFRATH (German Democratic Republic) said that, in a spirit of conciliation, he would withdraw his delegation's amendment.

33. Mr. COSTA COUTO (Brazil) said that, if the New Zealand delegation could not accept the compromise text suggested by Trinidad and Tobago for its amendment to operative paragraph 2 (b), the Brazilian delegation would propose that New Zealand's oral subamendment should be modified in such a way as to replace the reference to population programmes by a reference to alcoholism.

34. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that the Soviet delegation had submitted a subamendment to the third of the United States amendments (A/C.3/L.2065) to operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061, providing for the addition of the words “interested” and “having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council”.

¹ Subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.2070.

With regard to the Danish amendment (A/C.3/L.2069), he proposed the insertion after the words "Racial Discrimination" of the phrase "and taking account of the views expressed by States Members of the United Nations".²

35. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the United States amendment had been accepted by the sponsors, and had therefore been incorporated into the text of the draft resolution.

36. Mr. ABSOLUM (New Zealand) agreed with the Brazilian delegation that alcoholism was a serious problem and should be mentioned in operative paragraph 2 (b). Accordingly, although he would prefer to retain the words "population programmes"; he was prepared to accept the suggestion made by the Brazilian representative with regard to the fourth amendment of the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, if it was acceptable to that delegation and the Romanian delegation.

37. Mr. NENEMAN (Poland) suggested that the Danish amendment (A/C.3/L.2069) should include a reference to the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and the views expressed on the item in the debate held at the twenty-seventh session.

38. Miss CAO PINNA (Italy) said that, before the meeting held by the sponsors of the draft resolution, she had suggested an amendment to the representative of Romania, but the sponsors had not had time to consider it. The amendment would consist in including one or two paragraphs in which reference would be made to the importance of the full enjoyment of fundamental freedoms as an essential prerequisite for the development of youth.

39. Mr. CRISTESCU (Romania) said that his delegation would be prepared to accept the passage suggested by the representative of Italy. It could be inserted after the fourth preambular paragraph to read: "*Mindful also of youth's aspiration to the full enjoyment of fundamental freedoms as affirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*".

40. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Cyprus) said that, in view of the late hour and the number of amendments and sub-amendments submitted, it would be wrong to take a hasty vote on the draft resolution.

41. The CHAIRMAN said that he had no objection to postponing the vote.

42. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) supported the representative of Cyprus and asked if the Committee might be informed of the financial implications of the circulation of a revised draft containing all the amendments.

43. The CHAIRMAN said that on the following day the Committee would have such a document. He also announced that no further amendments could be submitted after 6 p.m. and that a vote would be taken following the meeting.

44. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that when he had introduced an oral sub-amendment to document A/C.3/L.2065, he had assumed that the Committee was considering the amendments in that document together with the others; he had not thought that the sponsors, in accepting the amendment, would have changed the situation. Romania and Italy had now submitted further amend-

ments and he wondered what procedure would be followed in the matter. In his opinion, those new amendments could be submitted in writing only if authorization was given by the Chairman.

45. Mr. CRISTESCU (Romania) explained that what he had done was inform the Committee of the Italian suggestion, submitted before the informal meeting, which could not be considered at that meeting for want of time.

46. Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that her delegation had tried to arrive at a compromise text for operative paragraph 2 (b) of the draft resolution in the hope of achieving a consensus and, during the debate, had said that it could accept the New Zealand sub-amendment although it preferred its initial amendment as contained in the provisional version of document A/C.3/L.2066. Now the Committee had before it the New Zealand sub-amendment and, if a vote was taken, Trinidad and Tobago would have to identify with that sub-amendment.

47. Mr. HOWARD (Director, Social Development Division) said that the Commission for Social Development met at two-year intervals. Thus, its next session, the twenty-fourth, would be held in January 1975 and the twenty-fifth session would be convened in 1977. If the report called for in the draft resolution was to be submitted to the General Assembly through the Commission for Social Development, it was unlikely that that could be done before the thirty-second session of the General Assembly, in 1977. If the report were to be examined by the Commission at its session in 1975, it would have to be completed and submitted for processing as a document by 1 June 1974. That would clearly be beyond the capacity of the Secretariat, particularly as the Secretary-General was requested to assemble the relevant data and then to prepare a report that would provide guidelines to planners in developing countries. That was a task requiring a concerted and systematic effort. As members of the Committee were aware, the Secretary-General had allocated the resources proposed in the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975 among various activities in the field of social development and humanitarian affairs, on the basis of the legislative mandates laid down by governing bodies prior to the twenty-eighth session of the Assembly.

48. Mr. GRAEFRATH (German Democratic Republic) asked if the suggestion made by Italy, and also mentioned by the Romanian delegation, was a formal amendment.

49. Miss CAO PINNA (Italy) said that the sponsors had considered all the suggestions that had been made, including those not submitted in writing. She was sure that the delegations represented in the Committee, especially the German Democratic Republic, were not opposed to fundamental freedoms, and she asked the sponsors to accept her suggestion.

50. Mr. MUSAFIRI (Zaire) wondered whether it would be possible to combine the texts contained in documents A/C.3/L.2061 and A/C.3/L.2062 in a single text, since they dealt with the same question.

51. Mrs. SELLAMI (Algeria) said that she appreciated the suggestion made by the representative of Zaire; however the draft resolution co-sponsored by her delegation (A/C.3/L.2062) could not be combined with the other text.

² *Idem*, A/C.3/L.2072.

52. The CHAIRMAN, replying to a question from Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), repeated that he had authorized the submission—after the prescribed time-limit—of subamendments to the amendments under consideration but not the submission of amendments to the draft resolution.

53. Mr. IRARRAZAVAL (Chile) said that although he had not intended to speak in the debate; because his Government had just set up a National Secretariat for Youth which was devising programmes for that section of the population, he was obliged to reply to the accusations made at the previous meeting by the representative of Cuba and to provide information concerning the situation of youth in his country. The creation of the secretariat he had mentioned was intended not only to meet a need, but also to express his Government's appreciation of the nation's youth, which had been among the first to rebel against the political indoctrination imposed by the earlier régime. As for the situation of the Chilean universities, his Government respected their independence, which was a tradition in his country, and the recently designated rectors had been assigned the task of restoring and safeguarding normal university life, which had been disrupted by extremist groups under the previous régime. He was aware of the organizational problems of depoliticizing the universities and was sure that those who found themselves deprived of political platforms would have complaints to make about the situation.

54. He went on to quote the disinterested views expressed on the general situation in Chile by the writer Ionesco, who had said that he found it strange and unfair that judgements should be made concerning the Chilean military movement and its effects without taking account of the causes that had produced it. Normal conditions already prevailed in the Chilean universities, as in primary and secondary schools; and he wished to point out, with regard to the latter, that students at that level had also played a part in political

activities and that currently the main concern was to ensure that students at all levels concentrated on their studies.

55. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) said, with reference to the statements made by the representative of Chile, that it was not enough merely to refute a charge; one must prove the opposite to be true. In his statement at the previous meeting he had said that Chilean universities were under military control, and in support of that statement he wished to inform the Committee that the rectors of the Chilean universities were an air force general, an army colonel, a retired navy commander, a retired colonel, a retired vice-admiral, a retired rear admiral, a retired navy captain and a retired colonel. That information was to be found in the issue of 23 October of the Santiago newspaper *El Mercurio*. He asked the representative of Chile whether or not youth organizations were banned by the Military Junta, whether or not the main Chilean youth leaders were in prison, in exile or dead; whether or not the militant students of various parties had been dismissed because of their political affiliations and, lastly, how there could be freedom to study when students were deprived of the right to choose their career on account of their political position.

56. Mr. IRARRAZAVAL (Chile) said that his reply to all the questions asked by the representative of Cuba would be a resounding "no". However, the Committee was not the appropriate forum and he had no intention of becoming involved in any kind of jousting tournament as he wished to avoid a repetition of the incidents that had occurred in the General Assembly.

57. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) said that the representative of Chile had confirmed the facts he had mentioned in his earlier statement by simply giving "no" as his reply and saying that the Committee was not the appropriate forum for a discussion of the question.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.

2033rd meeting

Tuesday, 20 November 1973, at 3.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.2033

AGENDA ITEM 62

World social situation of youth: report of the Secretary-General (concluded) (A/9003 and Corr.1, chap. XXI, sect. A.8; A/9119 and Corr.1, A/C.3/L.2052, 2061/Rev.1, 2062, 2066, 2067, 2069-2072, E/CN.5/486 and Corr.1, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and E/CN.5/486/Summary and Corr.1)

1. Mr. CRISTESCU (Romania) said that consultations between the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2061/Rev.1 and the delegations which had submitted amendments to it had resulted in agreement on a text for operative paragraph 7, reading:

"Requests the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission for Social Development to

study the possibility of redefining an international policy concerning the involvement of youth at the national and international levels, including the advisability of an international document on youth, taking into consideration, inter alia, relevant provisions contained in existing international instruments and the views expressed by Governments of States Members of the United Nations and by the interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and to present recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-eighth session, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session."

2. Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago) announced that her delegation had become a sponsor of the two