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**CONTENTS**

	Page
<i>Agenda item 12:</i>	
Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters V, VI and VII (section II, para- graph 645 only, and sections IV and V)) (continued)	
General debate (continued) . . . . .	13

Chairman: Mr. Eduard MEZINCESCU (Romania).

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Farhâdi  
(Afghanistan), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

**AGENDA ITEM 12**

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters V, VI  
and VII (section II, paragraph 645 only, and sections IV  
and V)) (A/4415) (continued)

**GENERAL DEBATE (continued)**

1. Mr. EL-FARRA (Jordan) said that chapters V and VI of the Council's report were indications of sound work and steady progress in the social and human rights activities of the Council. His own country was particularly grateful for the help it had received from the specialized agencies and under technical assistance programmes. The Executive Board of UNICEF, by expanding its activities, had made it possible to give much more help to needy children and his delegation hoped that in its next budget allocation it might be able to give special attention to the helpless plight of refugee children. In fully accepting the new responsibilities placed on it by the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, UNICEF had enhanced the prestige of the United Nations.

2. With regard to the international control of narcotics, he was happy to say that his country had complied with all its obligations. It was neither a producer nor a consumer of narcotic drugs, had no addiction to report and was working with its sister States of the Arab League and with the United Nations to find means to prevent the smuggling of such drugs. Effective supervision and control would be facilitated by the programme of technical assistance in narcotics control established under General Assembly resolution 1395 (XIV), which included in its 1960 projects assistance to enable the Permanent Anti-Narcotics Bureau of the League of Arab States to invite additional participants to its annual regional conference.

3. Prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities were a matter of great concern to his delegation. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, at its twelfth session, and the Commission on Human Rights, at its sixteenth session, had been informed of the action taken by UNESCO to draft recommendations

and an international convention on various aspects of discrimination in education, and both had decided to retain the question of discrimination in education on their respective agendas.

4. Meanwhile, his delegation felt compelled to speak of the deplorable case of discrimination in education in the Israel-occupied part of Palestine, where the standard of education in the Arab schools had declined owing to strict government control and the scarcity of textbooks and other teaching materials. Although Arabs were required to pay taxes and subscribe to compulsory loans on the same basis as others, their schools were the poorest in the country. In higher education institutions in particular, where the classes were conducted in Hebrew only, the young Arab students were deprived of the opportunity to learn something of their own history, literature and cultural heritage. Certain educational programmes implemented by the Israel Ministry of Education in spite of Arab protests precluded teachers from using their own methods or Arab parents from having any voice in their children's education. Not only were the mosques and churches prevented from taking an effective part in Arab children's education, but their property was illegally seized and handed over to the custodian of absentees' property.

5. Deep concern had been rightly manifested over anti-Semitic movements and other forms of racial discrimination by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and by the Commission on Human Rights, which had urged States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to take all appropriate action to prevent and punish such acts. While his own country joined in condemning such movements it felt duty bound to draw the attention of the Third Committee, and through it of other United Nations bodies, to the practices adopted against the Arab minority in Palestine by the very people complaining of anti-Semitic demonstrations.

6. The Arabs in question were virtually deprived of all civil, religious and property rights. They had to live with no freedom of movement under a military rule which did not always acknowledge the authority of the courts of justice, and whole communities could be removed from one zone to another. The Israeli authorities maintained a policy of "collective punishment" of whole Arab communities for acts committed by individuals. Political rights for the Arabs in that area were non-existent; the Arabs were not permitted to form their own political parties. As a result they were forced to join the different parties there and opposed each other as members of those different parties. Therefore they could not make their voice heard in any representative bodies. The elementary right to work wherever employment could be found was denied to them by new laws prohibiting labourers from working in any area except in the vicinity of their homes. Such discrimination, which took the form

not of irresponsible demonstrations but of actual legislation, extended to property rights. In order to gain possession of certain Arab lands, the Israeli authorities declared those Arab areas "prohibited zones", and they were deliberately left uncultivated so that they could later be legally confiscated under the law which subjected any unattended or uncultivated land to confiscation. The Bedouin who had been in Negeb for generations were forced to move south under pretext of security, and their lands were confiscated in the same way. Beersheba had been their Arab town and market place until the Israeli occupation. At present it was a completely Jewish town, forbidden to the Bedouin except for a visit or two a week for shopping purposes.

7. The whole situation in the area was a challenge to any committee occupied with the question of human rights and if the United Nations was to condemn discrimination at all it must condemn it wherever and in whatever form it existed.

8. Mrs. ESHEL (Israel) reserved the right to reply to the representative of Jordan when she made her statement to the Committee.

9. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) felt that the misuse of the word "anti-Semitic" should be avoided. The Arabs, too, were Semites, and no movement such as those described as anti-Semitic had ever been directed against them.

10. Lady TWEEDSMUIR (United Kingdom) said that she wished to stress only a few points in the report of the Economic and Social Council which were of particular interest to her Government. The United Kingdom would continue to support, financially and otherwise, the work being done by UNICEF, which had an outstanding record of achievement, in spite of a restricting shortage of funds. Her Government was deeply grateful for the prompt and valuable help that UNICEF had given to the people of Mauritius after the devastating cyclones earlier in the year.

11. Her delegation had noted with concern that, despite steady efforts to deal with such evils as illicit traffic in narcotics and drug addiction, very little progress had been made. The Governments most directly concerned were endeavouring to solve those problems in their own territory, but the way to future progress lay through increased regional co-operation. Her Government trusted that action on a regional scale would be encouraged at the Plenipotentiary Conference to be held in New York at the beginning of 1961.

12. The United Kingdom had strongly supported Economic and Social Council resolution 772 D (XXX) urging Governments which had not yet done so to adhere to the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery.<sup>1/</sup> It had already reported to the Secretary-General under article 8, paragraph 2, of that Convention and hoped that other States would follow suit as soon as possible.

13. The Commission on the Status of Women, like the other functional commissions, had continued to be active. Her delegation felt that its work should continue

to have good results, especially where subjects were studied in detail. The Bureau of Social Affairs was to be congratulated on the quality of the work that had been done. The Director of the Bureau had stressed, in her statement at the 982nd meeting, the importance of maintaining a proper balance between social and economic development. It seemed obvious that all the social work done by the United Nations must be founded on sound economic conditions. That point was clearly brought out in the Five-Year Perspective, 1960-1964, which, she was happy to see, had now appeared as a United Nations publication (E/3347/Rev.1).<sup>2/</sup> Her delegation was looking forward to a further report by the Secretary-General on the balance between economic and social development. That balance was a subject of vital concern to all, but particularly to the newly independent and developing countries. The United Kingdom Government was anxious to make funds available where they could be most useful, and 1.25 per cent of the national income was now going overseas for the economic and social development of other countries. However, it also recognized the vital importance of the work being done by the United Nations and its agencies and had more than doubled its combined contribution to the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. Like all industrialized countries, the members of the Commonwealth were making every effort to keep their economies in balance and to increase their trade. That was an obligation not only to their own people but to those in other countries who might wish to avail themselves of the opportunities offered by a strong economy, either through trade or through loans, grants or direct investments.

14. The section of the report dealing with education was of particular interest to her delegation. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom had strongly endorsed President Eisenhower's remarks concerning United Nations programmes in Africa, particularly in the field of education. Some 2,500 teachers left the United Kingdom every year for the developing countries of the Commonwealth and about 500 more went to other countries. At the same time, about 40,000 overseas students annually took full-time courses in the United Kingdom. The British Council also had an expanding programme for the teaching of English abroad. All that work had been given new impetus by the institution of the Commonwealth Education Scheme in 1959. Under that scheme, nearly 1,000 extra places in British universities and similar institutions were to be provided for students from the Commonwealth. Her Government would be spending the equivalent of \$17 million during the next five years on that expansion.

15. Not only teachers, but experts and administrators were needed in great numbers to help in development. The United Kingdom Government had therefore supported the United Nations programme for the provision of operational, executive and administrative personnel (OPEX) for under-developed countries and it looked forward to the establishment of that programme on a permanent basis at the present session. It had decided, subject to parliamentary approval, to make up the salary of any British overseas officer whose services the Governments of newly independent countries wished to retain, and to pay the so-called "inducement element" in the salaries of such officers during the years preceding independence. The programme might

<sup>1/</sup> United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on a Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave-Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, held at Geneva, Switzerland, from 13 August to 4 September 1956, Final Act and Supplementary Convention (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 57.XIV.2).

<sup>2/</sup> United Nations publication, Sales No.: 60.IV.14.

be a large one, for there were 25,000 such officers, but its ultimate size could be decided only by the extent to which independent Governments wished to take advantage of it.

16. Mr. CHANG (China) remarked that UNICEF was to be congratulated on its record of achievement. During the past year, the Executive Board of UNICEF had made a number of important decisions. His delegation welcomed the decision that a survey of children's needs was to be undertaken in 1961, but it had two comments to make. First, the scope of the survey should not be too broad. An over-all study of all children's needs would merely duplicate the work of some of the specialized agencies; moreover, it would be premature and might arouse false hopes in the recipient countries. Secondly, those countries and the specialized agencies should be consulted in order to ascertain priority needs. A survey with a definite scope and purpose, establishing priorities, would be more useful than a vast general survey.

17. A second decision of the Executive Board which his delegation welcomed was to undertake in June 1961 a review of the training of personnel. That was particularly important because the effectiveness of many UNICEF-aided projects had been curtailed by the shortage of qualified personnel in the beneficiary countries. A concerted training programme might be worked out by UNICEF, the other agencies concerned and the Bureau of Social Affairs.

18. He was happy to note that the policy of local matching of funds and local costs was being re-examined by the Executive Board with a view to enabling the newly independent countries of Africa to benefit to the utmost from the aid available. A further action of the Executive Board which would be useful to those countries was the allocation of \$25,000 to provide experts to assist Governments in preparing project requests. He hoped that the new countries would take full advantage of the allocation. His delegation fully concurred with the suggestion of the Executive Director that the OPEX programme might help them to solve their administrative problems. The Executive Board might consider, at a future session, whether advantage might not be taken of OPEX in connexion with UNICEF-assisted projects.

19. Of UNICEF's 391 projects, ninety-six were being carried out in Africa. His delegation trusted that the Fund's resources would continue to grow so as to enable it to meet the growing demands.

20. As regards international control of narcotic drugs, the most important problem was that of illicit traffic. It was encouraging to note that the amount of information supplied to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs during the past year had increased and that the quality of Government reporting had improved. Nevertheless, the volume of illicit traffic was still considerable and the main sources of supply of opium and opiates continued to be the Near, Middle and Far East. Illicit traffic was an international problem and could be solved only by close co-operation between the countries concerned. He welcomed the recent trend towards regional co-operation which had become apparent in Latin America and the Middle East. The first Inter-American Conference on the Illicit Traffic in Cocaine and Coca Leaf, organized by the Government of Brazil, and the Turco-Iranian border pact were steps in the right direction. It was to be hoped

that similar pacts could be concluded among other Governments of the region.

21. Drug addiction was also a very serious problem, and many countries had encountered difficulties with regard both to the treatment of addicts and to the evaluation of the addiction-producing properties of new drugs. He expressed satisfaction at the adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its fifteenth session, of a resolution co-sponsored by his delegation inviting WHO to study the possibility of assisting countries which so requested with their problems of drug addiction.<sup>3/</sup> He was confident that WHO would render all the assistance within its power.

22. The rapid increase in the production of new synthetic drugs was also a matter for grave concern. All synthetic drugs should be placed under control as soon as possible, in accordance with the 1948 Protocol. In the meantime, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should keep a constant watch for the emergence of new drugs and, when appropriate, decide to place them under provisional control, pending a decision by WHO regarding their addiction-producing power.

23. During the period under review, the Council and its Commissions had made steady progress in promoting respect for human rights. The draft Declaration on Freedom of Information and the draft Declaration on the Right of Asylum were two solid achievements. The Council had considered ways of making the advisory services in the field of human rights more effective and the Commission on the Status of Women had made progress in its field, particularly in improving economic opportunities for women and the access of women to education.

24. A distinction should, however, be made between the promotion and the protection of human rights. The United Nations had done much valuable work in the first sphere, but it had been able to do very little in the second. Millions of people were denied the right to their way of life, and lived in terror and slavery; the action taken in Tibet amounted to genocide; and the United Nations had been powerless to intervene in any effective way. Particular attention should therefore be given to the actual protection of human rights. Further delay might endanger the prestige and even the very existence of the United Nations.

25. Mrs. ANEGAY (Morocco) commended the Council and the specialized agencies for the excellent work they had done during the past year, a year which had been one of severe trials for a number of countries, including her own. She wished particularly to mention the great assistance which UNICEF and WHO had given in her country to the victims of Meknes and Agadir. The Moroccan people deeply appreciated the spontaneous help of the international community, which had been a brilliant demonstration of international solidarity. Her delegation hoped that Economic and Social Council resolution 746 (XXIX) concerning the earthquakes in Morocco would be put into effect as quickly as possible.

26. While the United Nations was making highly praiseworthy efforts to help the under-developed countries of Asia, Latin America and Africa, its help very often seemed inadequate to countries continually

<sup>3/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 9, chap. XIV, draft resolution C.

struggling with vexing problems. UNICEF, for instance, had done outstanding work in her country both for the Moroccan children and for the refugees from Algeria; but, like the other agencies and organs of the United Nations, it should do still more. In connexion with the programme of research and development of new protein-rich foods for children, UNICEF might play a very important role in her country, which was a major producer of fish and fish flour. UNICEF was in fact studying a project involving the construction of a fish-flour mill at Safi, Morocco. The project was of great interest to her Government, as it would help not only to alleviate hunger in the country but would also serve to absorb the over-production of the fish-producing coastal areas.

27. The United Nations Children's Fund might also have a part to play in improving the status of women. It could be said without exaggeration that a country's development depended in a large measure on the degree of development of its women. Ignorant women were unable to discharge their duties to their families, and society as a whole was the loser. A primary need, therefore, was to educate the women. Her delegation believed that UNICEF, in co-operation with UNESCO, could effectively help countries to cope with that task, as also with providing education for all children of school age.

28. While direct action in improving the status of women was in the hands of Governments, the United Nations could give valuable assistance by helping Governments to set up suitable programmes. Such programmes should be in keeping with the needs of the country concerned and should have the support of the people. They should, furthermore, take account of both city and country women. City women should have access to educational and civic centres at which they would learn, among other things, child care and hygiene. Furthermore, vocational training and guidance centres should be provided for working women, and nurseries for the children of working mothers. Country women could, in turn, be greatly aided by city women, who might be sent in mobile teams to instruct them in child care, home economics, civic rights and duties, etc. Furthermore, educational centres and workshops should be set up in villages, and possibly

co-operatives which would supply work tools to women at reduced prices and market their produce. Schools of nursing and mother and child welfare centres should be established in the cities and national or regional training schools for women teachers should be set up.

29. The less developed countries had other pressing needs as well. They needed more doctors and technicians, more houses and hospitals. She had therefore been very gratified to hear the Director of the Bureau of Social Affairs say that careful attention would be given to all suggestions which the delegations might make. She hoped that the Committee would be able to help under-developed countries, and particularly the countries of Africa, to find in the United Nations the solution of their many problems.

30. Mr. MAQUEIRA (Chile) said that the report of the Economic and Social Council was becoming more comprehensive and valuable each year, providing the Third Committee with a balance-sheet of what had been accomplished and what remained to be done.

31. His delegation considered that the draft Declaration on Freedom of Information carried great moral force and it hoped that the final text would be adopted quickly. It attached as much importance to the draft Declaration as to the draft Convention on Freedom of Information, considering the two to be distinct instruments, operating on different planes and thus having different legal scope and effect. His delegation hoped, nevertheless, that it would be possible to introduce into the text a further principle—the right of correction—to act as a guarantee against the abuse of media of information.

32. He would have some specific comments to make on the draft Declaration on the Right of Asylum when the Committee considered that important item.

33. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions on the item under discussion should be set at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 12 October 1960.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.