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Chairman: Mr. Eduard MEZINCESCU (Romania).

AGENDA ITEM 33

Assistance to refugees:

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the World Refugee Year (A/4546, A/C.3/L.863/Rev.2) (concluded)

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE WORLD REFUGEE YEAR (concluded)

1. Lady TWEEDSMUIR (United Kingdom) said that the new revised text of the eleven-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.863/Rev.2) took account of some of the suggestions made by the representative of Saudi Arabia at the 1005th meeting, but the word "everywhere" had not been inserted in operative paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs (b) and (d), because it was still a source of controversy. Wishing, however, to give full satisfaction to the Saudi Arabian representative, the sponsors had decided to delete from the fourth preambular paragraph the words "everywhere and on the need for sustained and increased efforts for their ultimate solution", and to add to the operative part a third paragraph reading:

"Expresses the hope that all people will take into consideration the problems of refugees and the need for sustained and increased efforts for the ultimate solution of these problems."

She then read out the French and Spanish texts of that paragraph, which had been drafted by the sponsors themselves, as follows:

"*Exprime l'espoir que tous les peuples porteront intérêt aux problèmes des réfugiés et à la nécessité d'une action soutenue et accrue en vue d'une solution définitive de ces problèmes.*"

"*Expresa la esperanza de que todos los pueblos tomarán en consideración los problemas de los refugiados y la necesidad de mantener e intensificar los esfuerzos con miras a la solución definitiva de los mismos.*"

2. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) thanked the sponsors for taking account of his delegation's concern that a humanitarian draft of the kind should be universal in scope. Thanks to the spirit of conciliation, the goodwill and the skill which they had shown, the sponsors had drafted a text which he considered preferable to

the one he had himself suggested at the 1005th meeting, and one which would be perfectly satisfactory if the new operative paragraph 3 had exactly the same scope as the fourth paragraph of the preamble. The words "world opinion" used in the fourth preambular paragraph were truly all-embracing, whereas the words "all people" in operative paragraph 3 could mean only for instance, all the people of a town, a province or a State, or, in the present instance, of Member States, but could not designate the whole of mankind. In order really to meet his desire for universality, therefore, the sponsors should, he thought, use the words "all peoples" after the manner of the United Nations Charter, whose opening words were "We the peoples". The words "all peoples" would then mean all the peoples of the world, whether or not they were independent and whether or not they were Members of the United Nations. If that change was not made he would feel compelled to resubmit, as an amendment, the suggestion he had made at the 1005th meeting for a third operative paragraph, the text of which he had given orally. He would regret having to take up again a text which was in many ways inferior to the present one, but he would feel that all his efforts had been in vain if the word "people" was not replaced by the word "peoples".

3. Mr. CORONA (Cuba) said that his country, although it was under-developed and was being subjected to economic and even military aggression, had contributed \$10,000 to World Refugee Year. He welcomed the work that had been done and congratulated the sponsors of the draft resolution on World Refugee Year (A/C.3/L.863/Rev.2) on their conciliatory spirit. He hoped that the resolution would be applied in the spirit indicated at the beginning of operative paragraph 2, namely, that assistance to refugees would be on a purely humanitarian basis, since care had to be taken that the refugee problem would not be used for political ends which would encourage many people to become refugees or as an instrument of the cold war, as the Yugoslav representative had rightly stressed at the 1005th meeting. He added that Cuba was carrying out its international obligations and it trusted that the draft resolution would reflect that general humanitarian approach; if it did not, he would suggest that a provision should be inserted to make that point clear.

4. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) noted that in the Spanish and French texts, the words "tous les peuples" and "todos los pueblos" referred to all the peoples of the world, as the Saudi Arabia representative wished; the difficulty applied only to the English text, therefore.

5. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) observed that the English was the original text of the draft resolution and that the Spanish and French versions would be interpreted in accordance with it.

6. Mr. KASLIWAL (India) asked whether the English-speaking sponsors of the draft resolution would agree

to replace the word "people" by "peoples", since the difference in meaning which the use of the singular entailed in English was apparently not reflected in the French and Spanish texts.

7. Lady TWEEDSMUIR (United Kingdom) explained that in English the word "peoples" had the meaning of nations and that consequently it was much more restricted in scope than the word "people". In using the singular the sponsors of the draft resolution had intended to stress the valuable contribution which individuals had made to World Refugee Year. The text of the new operative paragraph 3 which had been put forward in a conciliatory spirit to meet the objections of the Saudi Arabian representative had originally been drafted in English and in its present form expressed the intention of its authors. If the French and Spanish translations satisfied the delegations speaking those languages, the Committee could proceed to the vote.

8. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that his objections applied only to the English text of the new paragraph. If the English-speaking delegations among the authors of the draft resolution really wanted to refer to all individuals, they could do so more clearly; if, for instance, the words "all people" were qualified by the adverb "everywhere", there would no longer be any doubt that paragraph 3 was addressed to all the peoples of the world.

9. Mr. DE LAS BARCENAS (Spain) pointed out that the Spanish phrase "todos los pueblos" was equivalent to the English "all peoples".

10. Lady TWEEDSMUIR (United Kingdom) agreed to add the word "everywhere" after the words "all people".

11. Mr. JEAN-LOUIS (Haiti) thought that it was too vague to say in French "porteront intérêt... à la nécessité d'une action...". It would be advisable to introduce the second half of the sentence with a different verb.

12. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) suggested the insertion of the words "tiendront compte de" before the words "la nécessité d'une action".

13. Mr. COX (Peru) and Mr. RUDA (Argentina) thought that the Spanish text of paragraph 3 would be inelegant and repetitious if the words "en todas partes" were added after the words "todos los pueblos" to render the English adverb "everywhere".

14. Mr. CARRERA ANDRADE (Ecuador) said that the expression "de los mismos" at the end of the Spanish text of the new paragraph was not clear; it would be preferable to replace it by the words "de estos problemas".

15. The CHAIRMAN suggested the suspension of the meeting to give the delegations which had proposed the new paragraph 3 an opportunity to draft a text which would be identical in meaning in the English, French and Spanish versions and would give satisfaction to all members of the Committee.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 12.30 p.m. and resumed at 12.40 p.m.

16. Mr. RUDA (Argentina), speaking as one of the sponsors of the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/L.863/Rev.2), said that to take account of the observations of the representative of Ecuador the Spanish text of operative paragraph 3 would now read:

"Expresa la esperanza de que todos los pueblos del mundo tomarán en consideración los problemas de los refugiados y la necesidad de mantener e intensificar los esfuerzos con miras a la solución definitiva de estos problemas."

17. Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) read out the following text as the English version of operative paragraph 3, to which the Saudi Arabian delegation had agreed:

"Expresses the hope that all people everywhere will take into consideration the problems of refugees and the need for sustained and increased efforts for their ultimate solution."

18. The French text of that paragraph had been amended to take into account the suggestions of the Haitian delegation and read as follows:

"Exprime l'espoir que tous les peuples où qu'ils se trouvent porteront intérêt aux problèmes des réfugiés et tiendront compte de la nécessité d'une action soutenue et accrue en vue d'une solution définitive de ces problèmes."

19. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the eleven-Power revised draft resolution on World Refugee Year (A/C.3/L.863/Rev.2), as amended in the course of the meeting.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 64 votes to none, with 12 abstentions.

20. Mrs. DE GROTEWALD (Guatemala) said that she had voted for the draft resolution because the considerations prompting it were entirely praiseworthy. She wished, however, to make one correction. In referring, at the 1004th meeting, to the amount of the contributions collected by her country for World Refugee Year, the United Kingdom representative had mentioned the territory of Belize, which she called British Honduras, among the dependent overseas territories of the United Kingdom. The Guatemalan representative recalled that that territory had for some years been the subject of a dispute between Guatemala and the United Kingdom. Since the Third Committee was not competent to deal with the matter, she would confine herself to stating that for historical, geographical, political and legal reasons Guatemala was convinced that the international legal authorities would recognize the validity of its claims.

21. Lady TWEEDSMUIR (United Kingdom) replied that her Government's views on the subject of British Honduras were well known to all delegations and had been stated in other Committees of the General Assembly. The United Kingdom had not changed its position and remained in disagreement with Guatemala on that point.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.