



CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 12:	
Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (continued)	
General debate (concluded)	67
Draft resolution on the development of international co-operation in the field of science, culture and education	69

Chairman: Mrs. Aase LIONAES (Norway).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (A/3613, A/C.3/L.609, A/C.3/L.610/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.611-613) (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE (concluded)

1. Mr. ABDEL-GHANI (Egypt) pointed out that his country had been a member of the Economic and Social Council for six successive years and that its place on that body had now been taken by Sudan. He was sure that that country would make a valuable contribution to the Council's work, with all the enthusiasm of a new country engaged in vigorous efforts to reconstruct its economic and social life, and that its experience would prove most useful to countries similarly placed. He also welcomed the delegations of Ghana and the Federation of Malaya to the Third Committee.

2. His delegation would consider the agenda item in the light of its six years' experience in the Council. While the Report on the World Social Situation (E/CN.5/324/Rev.1) was a praiseworthy and valuable document, it was noteworthy that, contrary to the provisions of the United Nations Charter concerning the functions of the Economic and Social Council, the initiative for preparing periodic reports on the subject, along the lines of the reports on the world economic situation, had come from the General Assembly, and not from the Council itself. It was true that the Council had noted the reports with satisfaction and had discussed them amply and constructively; however, the majority of the Council always argued in favour of narrowing the scope of the reports and decreasing their periodicity. At its twenty-fourth session, the Council had decided (Council resolution 663 E (XXIV)) to postpone the next report until 1963, thus reversing its own decision that reports should be prepared every four years. The latter decision, moreover, had been a temporary measure, pending the availability of the necessary staff and resources for publishing more frequent, and preferably annual, reports.

3. The reason why his delegation and others wanted reports on the world social situation to be published more frequently was closely associated with another of the functions of the Economic and Social Council, that

of creating an awareness of social needs among the peoples of the world. There was a kind of mutual reaction between proceedings in the United Nations and the aspirations of the peoples. Statements by Government representatives in the United Nations both reflected existing hopes and engendered new ones. To illustrate that thesis, he cited the case of the agrarian reform in Egypt. A radical law on that subject had been enacted five years previously, but the need for it had been felt long before. The United Nations report on land reform (E/2930),^{1/} which had referred to the experience of many countries in all parts of the world, had been widely quoted in Egyptian newspapers and magazines and had prepared public opinion for the reform effected in 1952. Similarly, the United Nations report on the situation with regard to the political rights of women (ST/SOA/27)^{2/} had caused a stir in Egypt, which had been cited as one of the few countries in the world where women had no political rights. In fact, he himself had been obliged to abstain from voting on the Convention on the Political Rights of Women in 1952. That circumstance had been widely publicized and the effect on public opinion had been such that Egyptian women had very soon achieved their political rights, and two women had been elected to Parliament in the elections of July 1957.

4. One of the aspects of the Council's work that had had the most influence on modern thinking was the conception of "under-development". Representatives of Asian and African countries would agree that it had not originally been easy to accept that term as a description of their situation. They had maintained the outmoded attitude of concealing the unfavourable aspects of their conditions and showing the international community only the achievements of which they were proud. There had even been some reluctance to sign contracts for United Nations technical assistance, for fear of acknowledging the real shortcomings of national social situations. That attitude, however, had completely disappeared, to the extent that, when the Australian representative to the Economic and Social Council had submitted a definition of an under-developed country which excluded Egypt, the Egyptian delegation had objected vigorously and had proved that it was indeed under-developed. That state of mind was due to the work of the United Nations, whose reports, studies and debates placed every country under a spotlight and made all aspects of its life known. Thanks to the United Nations, a wider conception now prevailed. It was no longer shameful to acknowledge problems and shortcomings or to ask for help in overcoming them; the shame lay in allowing poverty, disease, ignorance and injustice to flourish unchecked.

^{1/} Progress in Land Reform (United Nations publication, Sales No.:1956.II.B.3).

^{2/} Convention on the Political Rights of Women: History and Commentary (United Nations publication, Sales No.:1955.IV.17).

5. The Egyptian delegation considered that the Council's attitude towards its subordinate bodies, particularly the functional commissions, left much to be desired. Unfortunately, it failed to give them the necessary guidance and advice, but merely frustrated their efforts if their activities did not please the influential majority of the Council. Thus, the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press had been abolished through the influence of that majority, and no useful purpose had been served by that move. However, other bodies had not been deterred by the abolition of the Sub-Commission, and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was doing valuable work in connexion with various aspects of discrimination. Its studies and reports would undoubtedly arouse the public conscience wherever shameful discriminatory practices existed.
6. The Third Committee had recently had occasion to criticize the Council's attitude towards the Commission on Human Rights. When the Commission had prepared recommendations on the exercise of the right of self-determination at the request of the General Assembly, the Council had obstinately refused to consider the recommendations, but had referred them back to the Commission without any guidance. However, the Commission had obliged the Council to transmit the recommendations to the General Assembly and the Third Committee would be considering them at the current session.
7. The Council had recently shown a tendency to advocate biennial sessions for the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women. The delegations supporting that trend advanced the slender pretext of economy; however, that was not enough to justify weakening the activities of two such useful Commissions. It was true that there had been a lull in the activities of the Commission on Human Rights since that body had completed its drafting of the International Covenants, but it would become busy again when it received reports on the implementation of certain individual rights. The Commission on the Status of Women was the most vigorous and progressive of all the functional commissions, and its activities should not be curtailed at a time when it was proving itself to be most useful. The decision should be taken on the merits of the work done, and not on the basis of economic considerations.
8. He had expressed his delegation's somewhat critical views in the hope that its experience in the Council's work would be useful to countries now represented on that body, and particularly to the new members.
9. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) stressed that social questions were as important as economic problems and that the United Nations should show equal interest in the two subjects. Great advances had been made in the social field since the establishment of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, and it was essential to recognize the full significance of those bodies, especially since the tendency to attach more importance to economic questions sometimes seemed to prevail in United Nations debates. The United States representative had rightly stated (768th meeting) that both economic development and social progress had but one purpose, that of enriching human life.
10. She paid a tribute to the Under-Secretary for his introduction (766th meeting) of the Council's report (A/3613) and to the Secretary-General for the Report on the World Social Situation (E/CN.5/1324/Rev.1). It was to be hoped that by the time the next report was issued the new data would show further improvement. In connexion with the stress that the report laid on urbanization, she described the extensive urbanization programme which was being carried out in the Dominican Republic, where millions of dollars were being spent on housing, schools, hospitals and parks for the benefit of large sectors of the population. That was only one of many urbanization programmes which were being conducted in her country, which was in the full flush of its economic and social development.
11. Turning to chapter VII of the report of the Economic and Social Council, she expressed the hope that the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would be celebrated with suitable solemnity. Her country was proud of having been instrumental in ensuring the inclusion of the principle of equal rights for men and women in both the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration.
12. The Commission on the Status of Women had amply proved its usefulness, in spite of the doubts which had been expressed at the time of its establishment. It had drafted the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (Assembly resolution 640 (VII), annex), to which thirty-five countries had now acceded, and the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, which had been opened for signature at the eleventh session of the General Assembly (Resolution 1040 (XI)). The Dominican Republic had been the first country to ratify the Convention on the Political Rights of Women and had recently ratified the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, which was a great stride forward on the path to equal rights for men and women.
13. Seminars had become a prominent feature of the activities sponsored by the Commission on the Status of Women under General Assembly resolution 926 (X). The seminar on civic responsibilities and increased participation of Asian women in public life, held at Bangkok in August 1957, had been an outstanding success, much of the credit for which was due to the Thai Government and the Secretariat. Further seminars were planned for 1958 but it was disturbing to note that only \$55,000 had been proposed for advisory services in the field of human rights in the 1958 budget estimates, compared with \$925,000 for advisory social welfare services.
14. She welcomed the fact that there had been a full debate on the report of the Economic and Social Council, which was a valuable and interesting document and had been too often neglected in the past. She hoped that it and the debate on it would provide a new stimulus for all United Nations activities which were intended to improve the lot of all mankind.
- Mr. HUMPHREY (Secretariat) said, in answer to the question asked by the Belgian representative at the previous meeting, that, as the Dominican representative had pointed out, \$55,000 for advisory services in the field of human rights was included in the 1958 budget estimates.^{3/} That was meant to cover not only

^{3/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Session, Supplement No. 5, p. 45, section 18a.

the organization of seminars but other activities, such as the provision of scholarships and fellowships. Of that sum \$52,000 had already been committed for the organization of two seminars on the protection of human rights in criminal law and procedure, one at Manila and the other at Santiago, so that the balance of \$3,000 must cover all the other activities of the programme. That would certainly not be enough to cover the cost in 1958 of a seminar of the type referred to in the eight-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.612).

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE, CULTURE AND EDUCATION (A/C.3/L.610/Rev.1)

16. Mr. ALDUNATE (Chile) said that his delegation was in full agreement with the purposes of the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.610/Rev.1); the amendment submitted by his delegation (A/C.3/L.616) was intended to alter the form without affecting the substance. The development of international co-operation in the field of science, culture and education was not only a laudable purpose in itself, it was one which all Members of the United Nations had bound themselves to pursue when they had signed the Charter. Those purposes were clearly stated in Article 1, paragraphs 2 and 3. Furthermore, in order to achieve some of the purposes laid down in those two paragraphs, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had been set up. Its purposes and functions, as specified in article I, paragraphs 2 (a) and (b), of its Constitution, were to collaborate in the work of advancing mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples and to give fresh impulse to popular education and the spread of culture. Chile, like many other countries, had established a National Commission for UNESCO, in accordance with article VII of the UNESCO Constitution, which sponsored all activities likely to achieve the purposes of the organization.

17. The Chilean amendment was intended to achieve the same purposes while carefully avoiding any suggestion that the work being done by UNESCO was not adequate. Operative paragraph 1 of the Czechoslovak draft resolution was acceptable as it stood, but operative paragraph 2 was far too detailed. As the Chilean amendment was meant constructively and intended merely to make the Czechoslovak draft resolution more effective, he hoped that the Czechoslovak delegation would be able to accept it.

18. Sir Samuel HOARE (United Kingdom) concurred in the view of the Chilean representative that the purposes of the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.610/Rev.1), which were enshrined in the Charter, must be acceptable to all Member States. If he felt somewhat less enthusiastic about that draft resolution than some other delegations, it was not because he found its aims unacceptable, but because he had doubts as to the necessity of such a draft resolution at the current time, in view of resolution 1043 (XI), concerning international cultural and scientific co-operation, adopted by the General Assembly at its eleventh session. Although it might be considered supererogatory to submit another draft resolution on the same subject now, he understood the motives of those who felt that that might be a way of persuading the Council to act, and he was not opposed to it.

19. It was undesirable, however, to give the impression, as did the draft resolution and some of the statements made in the debate, that it was a new departure

for Member States to seek to encourage exchanges of that kind. The draft resolution did not recommend a single activity in which the United Kingdom was not already engaged. His country welcomed cultural exchanges and visits of every kind; those barriers which existed were erected not by his country but by other countries, including some of those which had been most vocal in their support of the draft resolution. The USSR representative had given some impressive figures about the increasing number of tourists visiting her country. The United Kingdom would be glad to send even more visitors to the USSR than it had done so far; if the numbers had been small up to now, that was largely because the exchange rate of the rouble had only recently been modified and such trips had until then been beyond the reach of the man in the street. On the other hand, very few persons from the USSR visited the United Kingdom, although it welcomed tourists from every country in the world. As for the reciprocal organization of foreign broadcasting programmes, referred to in operative paragraph 2 (g), the British Broadcasting Corporation's broadcasts in Russian had been consistently jammed in the USSR. His country was entirely favourable to cultural exchanges of all kinds; its complaint was that they did not go far enough and it would like to see unrestricted access by the people of one country to the culture of another.

20. In its revised form, the Czechoslovak draft resolution quite properly dealt with only one form of cultural relations - cultural exchanges. He would therefore be able to support it, with the amendments submitted by five delegations, including his own (A/C.3/L.614). The purpose of point 1 of the joint amendments was to introduce language which had become traditional in United Nations resolutions, while that of point 2 was to eliminate a subject which had nothing to do with cultural exchanges, lay outside the scope of action of the specialized agencies whose collaboration was invited, and was being considered separately by the Economic and Social Council. Point 3 would rephrase paragraph 4 of the draft resolution in more general language, avoiding the implications of the original text that UNESCO was not sufficiently active in the matter and that the Council was being urged to take new and independent action. At the same time, it would achieve the Czechoslovak representative's objective, which was that the Council should give the matter its serious consideration.

21. Mr. LOPEZ (Philippines) said that the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.610/Rev.1) was brim-full of good will and expressed the longing of all nations for mutual understanding and peace. Never had the need for such understanding been greater than at present, when man had come so close to conquering the forces of nature and had achieved so little progress in mastering himself; the key to peace lay in mutual appreciation by all peoples of each other's culture and way of life. Unfortunately, now that natural barriers to cultural exchanges had been overcome, artificial barriers had been deliberately set up. Some of the worst were: interference with the freedom of movement of journalists and reporters; the censorship of outgoing news dispatches; and the jamming of radio broadcasts. Paragraph 2 (g) of the draft resolution would eliminate only the first of those barriers; his delegation had therefore submitted an amendment (A/C.3/L.615) the purpose of which was to ensure the removal of the other two. The proposals it contained were not new,

and indeed were to be found in existing resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and their adoption would ensure a more realistic approach to the matter. He also supported the joint amendments (A/C.3/L.614). If those texts were adopted, the Czechoslovak draft resolution should meet some of the world's hopes for international peace and understanding.

22. Mr. MEANY (United States of America) stated that his delegation was happy to associate itself with all those who sincerely sought international co-operation in the fields of science, culture and education. The United States had many extensive exchange programmes with other countries, some of them Government-financed, others not, because it believed that such exchanges constituted a valuable means of fostering peace, democracy and human fulfilment.

23. Consequently, his delegation supported wholeheartedly the objectives set forth in the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.610/Rev.1). He did not believe, however, that the long operative part of the draft resolution added anything to that statement of objectives, or that the measures it provided had any connexion with the real obstacles to the goals set forth in the preamble. He was therefore prepared to vote for the Chilean amendment (A/C.3/L.616), which he assumed would be put to the vote first. If it should not be adopted, he would vote for the Philippine amendment (A/C.3/L.615) and for the joint amendments (A/C.3/L.614), co-sponsored by his delegation. The draft resolution would then deal with at least some of the real obstacles to cultural exchanges in the world today, it would be drafted in conformity with United Nations practice, and it would assign proper responsibility to United Nations organs, without duplication.

24. There were two possible types of international cultural co-operation - between Governments, and between peoples through organizations free from Government control. The two types could usefully complement each other, since Governments and peoples frequently had a community of interests. The second type of co-operation was, however, hardly possible in the case of peoples controlled by totalitarian Governments. Indeed, peoples were not capable of a genuine international exchange of cultural and scientific experience unless they were free to express and exchange ideas within their own country.

25. Despite its laudable intentions, the Czechoslovak draft resolution could easily remain completely ineffective. If it were to have any real meaning, certain conditions would have to be met by all Member States. Thus, cultural exchange agreements between countries

should be on a reciprocal basis, with a view to ensuring to their respective citizens equal and maximum access to information. Governments should encourage their own people to enter into cultural co-operation with the people of other countries. Cultural exchanges should be developed with a genuine desire to promote understanding and friendship between the participating countries, and not in order to enhance the domestic authority and international prestige of Governments which imposed political control on artists and scientists and denied their own people the rights specified in the Charter of the United Nations. Co-operation should be a stimulus and a source of intellectual enrichment to those taking part in it. In that connexion, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, representing millions of workers from every part of the world, refused to exchange delegations with any country which denied its people the right of freedom of association and curtailed or prohibited trade-union rights. Lastly, every Member State should bind itself to permit and encourage the widest circulation within its borders of all reports and documents issued by the United Nations, its special committees and the specialized agencies, and should assist the representatives of those bodies in the fulfilment of their assignments.

26. Furthermore, in order to give effect to United Nations resolutions on international cultural, scientific and educational co-operation, the Government of each Member State should eliminate progressively all internal censorship of printed matter; do away immediately with the censorship of outgoing press dispatches and all barriers to the normal sources of information and the free circulation of ideas; open information centres on a reciprocal basis in the various Member States; remove all barriers to the free publication, circulation and distribution of official periodicals among public agencies and private individuals; ensure the free exchange by educational institutions and the sale to the general public of the books, periodicals and newspapers of other Member States; arrange for exchanges of uncensored broadcasts on world developments; and discontinue all jamming of radio services. On such a basis, cultural, educational and scientific exchanges between all peoples could be developed in the interest of a better and more peaceful world.

27. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) suggested that it might save the time of the Committee if those who had proposed amendments were to consult informally with the Czechoslovak delegation and perhaps produce text on which they agreed.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.