



Thursday, 7 February 1957,
at 3.15 p.m.

New York

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Chairman: Mr. Hermod LANNUNG (Denmark).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapters VI and VII) (A/3154, A/C.3/L.598 to 600) (*continued*)

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. MAHMUD (Ceylon), outlining his country's achievements in the field of community development, said that the population of Ceylon was largely rural. The improvement of living conditions therefore required the application of rural programmes, which could not be put into effect without the active participation of the inhabitants. Significant progress has been accomplished in that connexion. Although the movement had originated towards 1930, it had not really got under way until 1948, after the proclamation of the independence of Ceylon. A rural development department had then been set up in the Ministry of Home Affairs and had been given the responsibility for directing and co-ordinating activities, particularly those of rural development societies. Those societies were of several types. The work of some was based exclusively on private initiative, while others carried out the functions assigned to them by various administrative departments. They were active in many different fields such as the improvement of agricultural techniques, public health and education, the development of cottage industries, and irrigation. Their number had steadily increased during recent years and was at present 7,000.

2. The Association of Women's Institutes, known as Lanka Mahila Samiti, played an equally important role. Founded in 1930, it had grown rapidly and now had 1,000 affiliated institutes. Mrs. Bandaranaike, the wife of the Prime Minister of Ceylon, had been one of the chief organizers of that movement from the outset. A United Nations expert mission had drawn attention to the work of the Association, thanks to which Ceylonese women took an active part in community life.

3. In the field of community development, Ceylon was receiving considerable assistance from the United Nations specialized agencies. A fundamental education programme was being carried out with the help of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Experts sent out by those organizations were engaged in train-

ing village leaders and technicians who would later continue the operation of the programme without external assistance. Great attention was also being paid to the training of school teachers, adult education workers and public officials.

4. The purpose of the draft resolution of which the Ceylonese delegation was a co-sponsor (A/C.3/L.599) was to stress particularly important aspects of the problem of community development. The measures provided for would enable the under-developed countries to make rapid progress in a field in which the United Nations and its specialized agencies played a vital part. The Ceylonese Government hoped that the United Nations would be able to make an increasingly large contribution to the execution of such programmes and, for its part, would continue to give the Organization its whole-hearted co-operation.

5. Mr. CASTAÑEDA (Mexico) thanked the international organizations which had assisted his country in regard to social problems, particularly malaria control. Malaria was a very serious problem in Mexico, especially in the two coastal areas, which had a tropical climate. The malarial zone covered 500,000 miles and more than half the population was infected to some degree. The considerable efforts which the Mexican Government had made in the past had had only local and limited results. Thanks to scientific progress and to international co-operation, the situation had completely changed and the Mexican Government had been able, with the help of UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO), to undertake a five-year programme for the total eradication of malaria throughout the country. It was proposed to treat 3.5 million dwellings in 72,000 villages with insecticides. The implementation of that programme, in which the Mexican Army was to take part, would require a great number of vehicles and a large personnel; the total cost would be \$25 million, of which \$16 million would be borne by the Mexican Government.

6. Mrs. GERLEIN DE FONNEGRA (Colombia) said her country was particularly interested in all matters connected with the improvement of living standards. The problem took on a different aspect according to the degree of development of the area concerned. That fact had been emphasized at the international seminar organized at Bogotá in September 1956 by the Association of Catholic Women under the auspices of UNESCO with the participation of delegations from all over the world. At one of the lectures given at that seminar, she had been particularly struck by a representative's observation that the inhabitants of Latin American countries seemed to be living in three different centuries, those of the cities in the twentieth century, those of the rural areas in the nineteenth, and those of the mountainous areas in the eighteenth. There were geographical reasons for that state of affairs. Colombia, for example, had passed straight from the age of the mule to that of the aero-

plane and the difficulty of communications was largely responsible for the lack of leaders capable of directing the efforts of communities anxious to improve their living conditions. In order to remedy that situation, Colombia, in co-operation with the Pátzcuaro centre, was engaged in training specialists in mass education. The seminar had adopted several resolutions stressing, *inter alia*, the need to act in close co-operation with the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies of the United Nations, to set up rural and social centres for promoting mutual assistance, to train rural community workers, to study the problems created by rapid urban development and accelerated industrialization, to organize national sociology courses to promote a better understanding of the specific problems of each country and, finally, to make use of all media of mass communication such as the Press, the radio, the cinema and television in carrying out fundamental education programmes for women.

7. In conclusion, she cited the example of a pilot community development project undertaken in Colombia with the help of the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA) and some of the specialized agencies. The execution of the programme was progressing satisfactorily and she thought that the results obtained would be of great value to the pilot projects of all countries.

8. Mr. CHAUDHURI (Pakistan) said that the United Nations attached particular importance to the economic and social progress of all peoples and the improvement of living conditions in larger freedom. By its very existence, it strengthened the confidence of countless men and women in a brighter future and gave them grounds for believing that before long they could hope for a better and fuller life. Those considerations explained the great importance of community development, the purpose of which was to provide for man's creative fulfilment in society. The idea of community development was in full accordance with the spirit of the United Nations Charter.

9. In his statement at the 754th meeting, the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs had emphasized the main aspects of the problem. He had rightly stressed the importance of long-range international action and the need for community development projects to be closely correlated with national economic and social development programmes. Pakistan, for its part, had initiated a programme of village agricultural and industrial development, which was known as the Village A.I.D. Programme. That programme was intended to solve, through mutual co-operative efforts, the difficulties confronting the inhabitants of rural communities as a result of inadequate agricultural techniques, an unsatisfactory system of marketing food products, the insufficient quantity and low quality of cottage-industry products, a high rate of illiteracy, and inadequate participation in local self-government.

10. The objectives of the Village A.I.D. Programme were described in broad outline in the Pakistan five-year plan. The programme was democratic and educative, stressing mutual aid, co-operation and local leadership. It utilized community development techniques and sought to co-ordinate the resources of the Government and the people with a view to combining their efforts. More specifically, the objectives of the programme were as follows: to achieve a rapid increase in production and real income by teaching the villagers modern techniques; to provide more community serv-

ices so as to increase the national assets; to foster a spirit of self-help, initiative, collaboration and leadership among the people; to provide the necessary conditions for a richer life through the organization of social activities; to co-ordinate the work of the various government departments and to expand their activities at the local level; to give a welfare bias to the entire administrative structure of the Government. The programme was essentially designed to promote self-help. The people were encouraged to work on a co-operative and community basis, and the emphasis was increasingly on developing local leadership. Where the cost of projects exceeded the resources of the villages, the State granted financial and technical assistance. Far from competing with the work of the departments concerned with national development, the programme supplemented their activities: the administrative organization responsible for its execution served as channel between the people and the departments concerned, which thus obtained a knowledge of the country's needs. That organization might in fact be called the instrument of "extension" and the educational arm of those departments at the village level. It should be noted that the goals to be achieved were not absolutely identical in all countries, but depended entirely on local problems. Accordingly, there could be no question of adopting a uniform pattern everywhere. Nevertheless, the exchange of information and technical knowledge in that field was of vital importance, and the six-Power draft resolution was intended to facilitate such exchanges.

11. The problems of organization and administration inherent in the Village A.I.D. Programme were not the same at the national, provincial and local levels. At the national level, the Ministry of Economic Affairs was responsible for preparing and operating the programme; it exercised that function through a special agency, the Central Village A.I.D. Administration. That agency employed a highly specialized staff; its responsibilities included the submission of recommendations on policies and projects and the supervision and co-ordination of training and development activities in the provinces; it was also responsible for co-operation with foreign aid agencies assisting Pakistan. A Central Inter-Ministerial Village A.I.D. Committee had been set up to review and suggest measures to be taken. Working under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, that Committee comprised representatives of all the central government ministries concerned of the two provincial governments, of advisory agencies such as the Ford Foundation and the United States International Cooperation Administration and of certain official Pakistan agencies. The central Government provided the provincial governments with general guidance and assistance. At the provincial level, each of the two provinces had a provincial Village A.I.D. Advisory Committee whose composition and functions resembled those of the Central Committee. In West Pakistan, the execution of the programme was the responsibility of the Department of Social Welfare; the province was divided into five regions, each of which was administered by a directorate. In East Pakistan, the Government itself was responsible for the execution of the programme and had set up a department headed by a Village A.I.D. Administrator for that purpose. At the divisional and district levels, each division had a Divisional Village A.I.D. Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of the departments responsible for national devel-

opment, district officers and an elected representative from each development area. There were also District Village A.I.D. Advisory Committees, whose composition and functions were similar to those of the divisional committees. The present system might of course be modified in the light of experience, and the international exchange of information might prove very valuable in that sphere too.

12. The Village A.I.D. Programme operated on the basis of development areas generally comprising 150 villages with a total population of about 150,000. By 1960, there would be 172 such areas covering more than a quarter of the rural districts of Pakistan. Some 640 areas would be required to cover the entire country.

13. At the development area level, the implementation of the programme was the responsibility of a development officer assisted by a number of specialists and an advisory committee, whose composition resembled that of the district committees except that the Chairman of the Village Council of Elders was included. The development areas were of capital importance in the execution of the programme, because it was at that level that felt needs became programmes and programmes became action, action through which the people's level of living could be raised. Each area comprised ten to fifteen Village Councils of Elders. Those councils, the membership of which varied from area to area, were representative of the community; they operated with the assistance of Village A.I.D. workers and were subdivided into small specialized groups, through which the inhabitants could participate in the execution of the programme. The councils prepared projects and budgets, determined the order of priorities, assessed contributions from the village, estimated the amount of government assistance required and took part in the execution of the projects.

14. As regards the financing of the programme, administrative costs were 90,000 rupees a year for each development area and operating costs 273,000 rupees. Non-recurring expenses (construction, equipment, loans to farmers) amounted to 228,000 rupees. The central Government financed 75 per cent of the non-recurring and 50 per cent of the recurring expenses. In addition, Pakistan received assistance from a number of outside agencies. Thus, the United States International Cooperation Administration had sent community development specialists and many other experts; it had awarded fellowships and furnished material for the training of staff. The Ford Foundation had made studies on behalf of the Programme Administration and played a great part in the establishment of training institutes. Mention should also be made of the assistance furnished by UNESCO and the Asian Foundation.

15. The bulk of the development area personnel were paid from funds allocated to the Village A.I.D. Programme. The effectiveness of that programme depended to a very large extent on the Village A.I.D. workers, of whom there were thirty-five per area in West Pakistan and twenty in East Pakistan. They might be described as a spearhead and they formed the essential link between the inhabitants of local communities and the departments responsible for national development. Educators rather than officials, they helped the villagers to determine their individual and collective needs, to draw up the necessary plans for meeting those needs and to carry them out with the greatest possible use of local resources. There was one development

officer for each development area and he was the pivot of the programme. He inspected and co-ordinated the work of the various technical officers, social workers and other specialists, supervised the training of staff, co-ordinated and supervised the preparation and application of programmes at the different levels for which he was responsible. The Village A.I.D. supervisors—of whom there were two in each development area—were chiefly responsible for supervising and assisting social workers. They would in future be recruited from among the best social workers.

16. There were nine training institutes of different sizes, and two others would be established shortly. Their curriculum was designed not only for future social workers but also for village supervisors, community leaders and school teachers. The training given to social workers was mainly intended to equip them to instruct the village inhabitants in the skills which they themselves had learned; special importance was attached to human relations techniques, which in their case were of vital importance. The development officers, village supervisors and social education officers attended four-month courses in training institutes, where they were instructed in the structure and functioning of the programme, the preparation of projects, the supervision and organization of work, budget methods and human relations techniques. A scheme for acquainting school teachers with the programme had been prepared. In view of the part they played in the local communities and the great influence which they exercised, particularly on the young, it had been decided to train at least twenty teachers a year in each development area. They would be given the necessary information about the programme in two-month orientation courses, and special emphasis would be placed on human relations techniques. Plans were also being made for training village leaders. The latter would attend three-week courses in training institutes. Approximately a hundred community leaders a year could be trained by that method in each development area. The courses would concentrate on the structure of the programme, on organizational techniques and on the part played by village leaders in their community. It was planned to establish two Village A.I.D. academies, one in each province. Their purpose would be to train higher-level personnel for the development areas, as well as instructors for the training institutes; they would give the administrative and technical officers basic instruction in the aims and methods of the programme. It had not yet been decided exactly what subjects would be taught in the academies, but they would probably cover a wide field. All courses would emphasize the connexion between theory and practice, the function of Village A.I.D. workers and methods of assisting them, the philosophy underlying democratic community development, and the appropriate methods of promoting such development.

17. The Pakistan representative briefly described the objectives of the five-year plan in agriculture (stock farming, reafforestation, erosion prevention, irrigation, agricultural credit), public health and hygiene, roads and community facilities, education (primary and adult), improvement of home life (particularly household economy), cottage industries, village organizations (clubs, co-operatives).

18. Commenting on the role of international co-operation in community development, he recalled that a team of United Nations experts had advised the Gov-

ernment of Pakistan and had helped it to launch an urban community development programme, the main feature of which was the organization of neighbourhood councils and committees; that programme called for personal initiative and the co-ordination of the various government services. Two pilot projects had been started, one in Karachi in 1953 and the other in Dacca in 1955. Their purpose was to train personnel which would later direct other projects of the same kind. It had become apparent that much useful work could be done by neighbourhood councils and committees, and the Government of Pakistan was showing an increasing interest in an urban community development plan at the national level. In conclusion, he wished to emphasize the great value of the training courses which were being given in that sphere at Lahore under United Nations auspices.

19. Miss BRUUN (Denmark) said that her delegation was fully aware of the importance of community development in under-developed countries and would endeavour to assist in the preparation of long-term programmes by presenting certain ideas which it hoped might be useful to the Secretary-General. She wished to place particular emphasis on the co-operative movement, which had become so widespread in Denmark. It had begun in a small way; the first farm co-operative having been established for the purpose of improving the quality and promoting the sale of dairy products. Since then the movement had spread considerably and it now embraced all branches of farm production and the export business. Nearly 45 per cent of the total population of the country belonged to co-operative societies. The chief feature of the Danish co-operative movement was the importance attached to private initiative; the democratic spirit which prevailed in the administration of the societies, and the practical way in which it tackled the problems which arose. The co-operatives, which did not receive any assistance from the State, protected the interests of their members, who decided on the policy which should govern their development; they concentrated on keeping the quality of their products at a high level and their activities made a significant contribution to the development of the national economy. In preparing long-term plans for community development, it would be useful to bear in mind the organization of the Danish co-operative system. The idea of co-operatives was no novelty in the field of technical assistance. Several seminars had been organized in Denmark, particularly under the auspices of FAO, and many under-developed regions and countries had benefited and were still benefiting from the advice of Danish experts. The co-operative movement could render great service to the under-developed countries: through it, it was possible to approach economic and social problems from a practical point of view and to develop a spirit of initiative and a sense of responsibility. The overriding importance of local participation was generally recognized; the only programmes which had any chance of success were those in which the people themselves took an active interest.

20. The Danish delegation had been glad to submit, together with other delegations, the draft resolution concerning the programme of community development. It had always taken an active part in preparing the various programmes of technical assistance in the social field and it would always be ready to co-operate with countries which were anxious to acquire broader experience in that field.

21. Mrs. SHOHAM-SHARON (Israel) thought that the United Nations could justly pride itself on the influence that the Economic and Social Council, its functional commissions and the specialized agencies had on the lives of millions of people. The fact that relatively small investments had made it possible to achieve spectacular results throughout the world was largely due to the Organization's having been able to place the most extensive theoretical knowledge and great practical experience at the service of States. Experience had shown that in the economic and social fields long-term concerted programmes were the most effective means of raising the level of living of both urban and rural populations. She therefore welcomed the emphasis laid in the statement made by the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs at the 754th meeting on the new approach of community development, which treated the related needs of communities and individuals as a whole. She felt that the views which the various delegations had expressed on that subject would be of great assistance in drawing up a programme of concerted action and she would be glad to contribute her own country's experience in that field, during the past year.

22. A study group comprising representatives of Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey and Israel had met at the end of 1955. The group had had the benefit of assistance from the United Nations Secretariat, UNESCO and TAA; its work had proved particularly useful to the State of Israel, which had subsequently established a National Co-ordination Committee for the purpose of co-ordinating community development activities at the local, regional and national levels. After studying various aspects of the question with the co-operation of an anthropologist and a community development specialist, the Committee had been able to work out various methods, which had been followed with success, particularly in the south of Israel. It had also helped to organize seminars and had drawn attention to the importance of co-ordinating the work of doctors, nurses, teachers, youth-movement leaders and social workers. That co-ordinating Committee, which convened under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office, would soon, it was hoped, become a National Board with ministerial authority. The Israel Government hoped, with the assistance of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, to remedy its lack of qualified personnel in the fields of public health, social services, education and agriculture by drawing up new training programmes. Various interesting experiments were being made in community development, in which the Government, the municipal services, the voluntary organizations and both the rural and urban population were participating.

23. The Israel delegation supported the six-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599) but regretted that it did not include the word "urban". Although community development projects were of particular interest to rural areas, they were not exclusively concerned with rural populations, as the definition of the term given by Mr. de Seynes indicated. It would therefore be better either to mention both urban and rural areas or to omit both terms. The Israel delegation would give its general support to the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598).

24. She regretted that some important parts of the Economic and Social Council's report (A/3154) had been examined only superficially that year; she hoped

that the questions with which they dealt would receive all the attention they deserved from the Third Committee at the twelfth session.

25. In closing, the Israel delegation expressed its satisfaction at the important practical progress which had been achieved during the year with respect to human rights: the completion of the Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave-Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery. Israel had signed both those instruments and intended to ratify them as soon as possible.

26. Mrs. LEIVO-LARSEN (Finland) congratulated the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs on his excellent statement (754th meeting). The Under-Secretary had asked the new Member States to give the United Nations their assistance in the economic, social and cultural fields. Finland would not fail to do so, particularly since it had recently been elected a member of the Economic and Social Council.

27. Her delegation had studied the Council's report (A/3154) with great interest but did not intend to comment on it in detail, since it dealt mainly with a period during which Finland had not yet belonged to the United Nations. Her delegation wished, however, to express its satisfaction with the work done to improve the status of women, for Finland had always been in the vanguard of progress in that field. Since 1906, Finnish women had enjoyed the right to vote and to be elected to the Parliament, which currently included thirty women members, two of whom were Ministers. With the exception of a few occupations reserved for men—in the Ministry of Defence and in the Police Force, for instance—all professions and occupations were open to women, whether single or married. In the central and municipal administrations and in the State schools, women enjoyed the same rights and received the same pay as men. Although Finland had not yet ratified the ILO Convention (No. 100) concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women for Work of Equal Value, the question had been considered in 1954 by a national commission and the Parliament had given a favourable opinion. Since the adoption of the 1929 Act concerning marriage, women had the same rights as their husbands, particularly in regard to property and children. Girls had the same educational opportunities as boys. The proportion of women in the universities was 46 per cent, in commercial schools 29 per cent, in teachers' training colleges 61 per cent and in social welfare schools 54 per cent. Women were taking a significant part in social work and many belonged to women's and mixed organizations.

28. Turning to the documents before the Committee, she said that she would vote in favour of the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598). International co-operation in the scientific and cultural fields could help to reduce current world tensions and would enable each country to benefit from the achievements of others. Her delegation would also vote in favour of the six-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599). Community development had been practised for several centuries in Finland, where the communities, which enjoyed a considerable measure of autonomy, played a major role in the administration of the State and in the economic, social and cultural fields.

29. Mrs. GARDINER (Liberia), too, regretted that the Committee had not been able to devote more time to studying the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/3154). She was glad that in his admirable statement the Under-Secretary had laid emphasis on community development and she hoped that Liberia could benefit from the assistance of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in that field. Great progress had already been made, thanks mainly to the assistance of the United States of America and UNESCO. The schools and the university were training social workers who, after receiving their training, went into the rural areas to teach the people about community development. Most of the tropical diseases had been eliminated with the help of an American public health mission. The network of schools was very extensive and the programme to combat illiteracy had produced excellent results. Liberian students were being sent to various countries in Europe and to North America to learn the Western techniques the country needed.

30. She fully endorsed the principles underlying the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598) and would also vote in favour of the six-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599).

31. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) was sorry that the method adopted by the Third Committee for consideration of agenda item 12 did not permit representatives to dwell upon the various matters dealt with in chapters VI and VII of the Economic and Social Council's report (A/3154) in as much detail as those matters warranted. He found it the more regrettable since Syria, not being a member of the Economic and Social Council, was not able to present its views in that body. He hoped that a more satisfactory procedure might be adopted for that item in future.

32. His delegation wished to pay a tribute to the work done by the Council, its subordinate bodies and the various specialized agencies. It was pleased to note that the Council had extended the geographical scope of its social activities, both in independent countries and in the Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, and had intensified the training of the local staff required to implement the programmes. Syria was doing its utmost to derive the greatest possible benefit from the co-operation of the bodies he had named; their co-operation was particularly extensive in such fields as technical assistance, social welfare and international control of narcotic drugs, to quote only a few examples.

33. His delegation wished to state that it considered that there was every justification for the request made by Afghanistan that it be included among the countries authorized to produce opium for export. He thought that it would be well to include in the Committee's report on agenda item 12 the main points of the statement made by the representative of Afghanistan, as also the favourable comments it had evoked.

34. His delegation was grateful to the Economic and Social Council for having recognized in its report (A/3154, para. 463) the role played by the representatives of the Anti-Narcotics Bureau of the League of Arab States and thus having drawn attention to action by the League which was humanitarian, social and cultural and not political.

35. His delegation regretted, however, that the Council had so far been unable to take serious action on the very important problem of freedom of information,

for the campaigns of slander directed against certain countries were harmful to understanding between nations.

36. With regard to the draft resolutions which had been submitted, his delegation agreed in principle with the views expressed in the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598). A call from the General Assembly itself would have greater effect than the resolutions or recommendations of a specialized agency such as UNESCO and would not duplicate those recommendations, which were essentially technical in nature. He was also in favour of the six-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599), which dealt with matters in which Syria was greatly interested. He could not, however, endorse the essentially political criterion in paragraph 4 (e) and proposed that the phrase "newly constituted States" should be replaced by the words "States which so desired". There were States which, although not newly constituted, might wish to benefit from the assistance provided in that field, while others, although newly constituted, were sufficiently developed not to require such aid.

37. Mr. SCOTT FOX (United Kingdom) wished to explain certain points concerning the amendments (A/C.3/L.602) which a number of delegations, including the United Kingdom, had submitted to the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598). All delegations were, he believed, at one in recognizing the very great value of international cultural and scientific co-operation. It was precisely because of the importance of the question dealt with in the Czechoslovak draft resolution that the sponsors of the amendments, anxious that it should rally the greatest possible number of votes, thought it would be wise to introduce one or two slight changes. To their mind, it would be premature, after no more than a hurried discussion, to ask the General Assembly to take a position on far-reaching proposals and it would be more appropriate simply to take note of the admirable work already being done in that field by some of the specialized agencies, particularly UNESCO, and request the body which was responsible under the United Nations Charter for co-ordinating the activities of the specialized agencies to devote special attention to the question.

38. To begin with, the sponsors of the amendments had given the draft resolution a title. The second amendment called for the replacement of the last paragraph of the preamble, in which it was stated that "all the necessary prerequisites exist", by a less categorical text. The third amendment, which related to paragraph 1, left the substance unchanged but pruned the text of a somewhat over-specific formulation. It might well be that countries which preferred some methods of co-operation to others would hesitate to commit themselves to promoting "a further all-round development". The main amendment concerned paragraph 2, which outlined a new programme of action, as it were. The sponsors of the amendments proposed, more modestly, that the specialized agencies concerned should include, in the regular reports on their activities which they communicated to the Economic and Social Council each year, and not in special reports, a statement of their views and activities in the field of international cultural and scientific co-operation, and that the Council, as the co-ordinating body, should give special attention to such statements. There was nothing to prevent the General Assembly, if it deemed fit, from adopting other measures in due course.

39. Mr. SUTANTO (Indonesia) said that the Indonesian Government was opposed in principle to the production and manufacture of narcotic drugs for other than medical or scientific purposes and had been very pleased to note the decision taken by the Iranian Government. However, the Indonesian delegation felt that, since the 1953 Protocol recognized the right of certain States to produce opium for export, it would be logical to extend that right to Afghanistan, which, according to the Afghan representative's explanation, had always been an opium-producing country, especially as only three countries, apparently, had voted against the request submitted by Afghanistan to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

40. Mr. PETRZELKA (Czechoslovakia) thanked the delegations which had expressed agreement in principle with the Czechoslovak draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598), and especially the authors of the amendments (A/C.3/L.602), most of which seemed to him at first sight to be acceptable.

41. Some delegations had expressed doubts concerning the third paragraph of the preamble. He would like to make it clear that he had not sought to influence the Committee but had only referred to the UNESCO resolutions in order to give an idea of the measures adopted by that specialized agency, and that in any case the paragraph in question was not the main feature of the preamble.

42. Mr. DIAZ CASANUEVA (Chile) congratulated the Czechoslovak delegation on having submitted a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.598) which called the attention of Governments to the need for promoting international cultural and scientific co-operation and which would enable the specialized agencies to give an account of their activities through the Economic and Social Council. He hoped that the Czechoslovak representative would accept the amendments proposed.

43. Mr. CURRIE (Canada) wished to reply to some of the Afghan representative's observations. In explaining the Canadian delegation's attitude towards the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council, he had not had the least intention of provoking a discussion on the substance of the question. He agreed that the Council, in referring the question to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, had not prejudged the issue and he was therefore sorry that the delegation of Afghanistan had seen fit to bring before the Third Committee a question which was scheduled to be studied during the year by the competent body.

44. At the preceding meeting the representative of Afghanistan had challenged the figures quoted by the Canadian delegation of the votes cast in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the Afghan request. There seemed to have been a misunderstanding. The representative of Afghanistan had been taking the results of the vote on one of the paragraphs of the draft resolution, whereas the Canadian delegation had been quoting the results of the vote on the text as a whole. What was certain, at all events, was that only six members of the Commission out of the fourteen present had voted in favour of the draft resolution and of the paragraph in question. There were several points in the Afghan representative's statement which he would feel bound to take up were he not convinced that they were out of place in the Third Committee. He would merely repeat that it would be better not to discuss the question and to await the results of the new and

impartial study which the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was shortly to undertake.

45. Mr. PAZHWAK (Afghanistan) thanked the Canadian delegation for having stated its opinion frankly. He would like to know the opinion of all delegations, even if it was unfavourable. The Canadian representative had said that the question raised by the Afghan delegation should not be discussed in the Third Committee. He himself felt, on the contrary, that his statement was perfectly in order in the discussion, because paragraphs 474 and 475 of the Council's report (A/3154) dealt with the question of the right of Afghanistan to produce opium for export. In any case, his delegation had not submitted a draft resolution but had merely explained the difficulties confronting Afghanistan. It merely wanted the Economic and Social Council to take into account both the views his delegation had expressed in the Third Committee and the ensuing debate and to realize that an immediate decision was imperative.

46. He had stated the results of the vote on one paragraph of the draft resolution for a good purpose: that was paragraph 1, which ran as follows:

"The Commission on Narcotic Drugs recognizes the justice of Afghanistan's claim to be included among the countries which may produce opium for export."

That was the question he had brought before the Third Committee.

47. Mrs. QUAN (Guatemala) said that the sponsors of the six-Power draft resolution (A/C.3/L.599) accepted the French amendments (A/C.3/L.601).

48. Mr. KRISPIS (Greece) said that the Greek delegation had always supported the request of Afghan-

istan and would continue to do so whatever body discussed it.

49. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) also thought that the statement by the Afghan representative was perfectly in order in the discussion. Moreover, he thought that the details given had been very useful, for without them some people might have gained the false impression that Afghan opium was used mainly for illicit purposes. As the Afghan delegation had not submitted a draft resolution, he formally proposed that the Afghan representative's statement and those of the other representatives should be faithfully reproduced in the Committee's report on agenda item 12. He also asked whether the Secretary-General could see that the relevant summary records were communicated for study to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

50. In reply to a statement by Mr. ARDĀLAN (Iran), Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that in using the words "false impression" he had merely wished to say that the Afghan representative's explanation of his country's position had helped some representatives who had only a few rather vague ideas about the general question of narcotics. Since Afghanistan needed to export opium in order to resolve certain economic difficulties, it was only fair that it should be included among the countries authorized to produce opium for export.

51. Mr. MUFTI (Syria) pointed out that he had submitted a request similar to that made by Saudi Arabia and that he would like the Committee's report to include a summary of the statement made by the representative of Afghanistan and of the discussion relating to the question.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.