

Aggression,⁹ for colonialism in all its forms increased the risk of armed conflict inasmuch as oppressed peoples had no choice but to resort to force. In conclusion, it stressed

⁹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19* and corrigendum, para. 22.

the fact that the sincerity of States which claimed to support the right to self-determination could be tested by reference not only to their words but also to their deeds.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

2082nd meeting

Tuesday, 5 November 1974, at 3.25 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

A/C.3/SR.2082

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [Chapters III (sections D to F), IV (section J), V (sections A to C, D, paragraphs 436 to 478, 487 to 492 and 494 to 506, and E), VI (sections A.1 to 5 and 7, E and G) and VII (sections 1 to 3)] (continued) (A/9603, A/9637, A/9707, A/9733, A/9737, A/9764, A/9767, A/9785, A/C.3/L.2121, 2123/Rev.1, 2127)

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that, at its 2237th plenary meeting, the General Assembly had decided to refer agenda item 60 (Assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster situations: (a) Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator; (b) Aid to the Sudano-Sahelian populations threatened with famine) to the Second Committee,¹ and that the Third Committee would also consider the humanitarian aspects of the item in conjunction with the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/9603), which dealt with it in section B of chapter III.

2. Mr. MORSE (Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs) said that the question of aid to Sudano-Sahelian populations threatened with famine as a result of a long and persistent drought was one of the most important and urgent items of the agenda of the Assembly. The relief operations had made it possible at least partially to alleviate the sufferings of the populations most seriously affected and to satisfy their most immediate needs, but much effort was still needed to rehabilitate the entire Sudano-Sahelian region. It was essential to continue the emergency relief operations and at the same time to formulate effective medium- and long-term programmes of recovery and rehabilitation. The international community should provide assistance to the Sudano-Sahelian countries not only during periods of crisis, but for many years to come. As a result of the decision taken at the beginning of 1973 by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of FAO, to designate FAO as the focal point for emergency relief operations and to entrust the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs with responsibility for co-ordinating medium- and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programmes, action had immediately been initiated

in those two fields in close contact and co-operation with the Sudano-Sahelian countries concerned and with the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel.

3. The international community had responded generously to the appeal addressed to it by the General Assembly in resolution 3153 (XXVIII) concerning short-term emergency measures, which were also dealt with in the Secretary-General's report (A/9737). Pursuant to that resolution, FAO, in close consultation with the recipient countries, was currently drawing up plans for food aid and related requirements using technical evaluation teams and multi-donor missions. It was expected that by the end of the month it would be possible to assess the magnitude of the food aid required. Despite the recent rainfall, the 1974 crop in the region could not be expected to meet the needs of the population and additional food aid would have to be provided to the population for the period from November 1974 to October 1975, thus extending the emergency operations well beyond the originally intended deadline.

4. As co-ordinator of medium- and long-term activities for the Sahel, he wished to congratulate FAO on the competent manner in which it had assumed its responsibilities and had been able, despite the many difficulties encountered, to meet emergency needs and formulate long-term relief programmes. In conclusion, he stressed that all United Nations activities, whether in the field of emergency relief operations or long-term recovery and rehabilitation, were being pursued in close co-operation with the Permanent Inter-State Committee and with the Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian countries, which had won the admiration of the international community by mobilizing their national and regional resources, stimulating external participation in the efforts to remedy the effects of the drought and overcoming the severe constraints of their economies. He was confident that the United Nations system would continue to offer aid and co-operation to the Sudano-Sahelian peoples, not only at the current stage of emergency relief, but throughout the subsequent period of recovery and rehabilitation.

5. Mr. GREENE (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said he wished to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to certain salient aspects of the work of the FAO Office for Sahelian Relief Operations (OSRO), a detailed account of which would be found in the

¹ For the report of the Second Committee, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 60, documents A/9853 and Add.1.

Secretary-General's report (A/9737). The experience gained during the first year of relief operations had contributed to the success of those operations during the second year. In the sphere of food, thanks to the active participation and co-operation of the Governments concerned, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations, the quantities of food grains delivered had more than doubled in 1974 and had been delivered on time to the populations affected by the drought, and massive airlifts from the ports had not been necessary in 1974, as they had been in 1973. The action taken to reduce the suffering of the populations of those areas had not been confined to the delivery of food.

6. Despite the current monsoon season, which had been satisfactory compared with previous years, the 1974 crop would again be unable to meet the needs of the populations and, given the difficulties of transport and internal distribution and the total lack of reserves, outside food assistance would be necessary until the situation stabilized. For that reason, the Governments and the principal donors had agreed with FAO to send a multi-donor mission to the drought-affected countries in the course of November to assess the additional requirements for foods, protective foods, transport, storage, seeds, logistical support and technical assistance. That mission would be preceded by technical evaluation teams which would evaluate the 1973-1974 relief operations and the harvest prospects, to assist the mission in its work. Arrangements had been made in 1974 for pre-planning with donors for advance commitments of food supplies and for their transport during the slack period between November and March. Out of an advance commitment of 275,000 tons, 240,000 tons of food grains were ready to be shipped to the countries for which they were intended under the shipping schedule prepared by OSRO, taking into account the port capacities and internal distribution needs of those countries.

7. High priority would have to be given to the question of improving internal transport in 1975. In all the countries of the Sahelian region, the road transport systems were deficient and the means of transport insufficient. Some 150 trucks were required and he hoped that the donor Governments, which had already shown great generosity, would appreciate the importance of assistance in that field and would help the FAO Office for Sahelian Relief Operations to ship those trucks in good time to the affected countries.

8. One of the salient features of the emergency relief operations was the catalytic role played by the United Nations system, which had mobilized relief supplies and ensured that outside assistance reached the countries concerned—most of which were land-locked and had transportation problems—and met their needs. Such centralized monitoring of assistance made it possible to ship all contributions in an orderly manner and to maintain an even flow. The help provided by the Office for Sahelian Relief Operations in that regard had been greatly appreciated by the donor countries.

9. In conclusion, he thanked all the Governments represented on the Committee and the members of the United Nations system for the material, financial and moral support they had given to the drought-affected Sudano-Sahelian countries.

10. Mr. KABORÉ (Upper Volta) expressed, on behalf of his delegation and his Sahelian colleagues, his gratitude to the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and to the representative of FAO for the extremely valuable services they had rendered to the Sahel, which demonstrated their concern for the populations of those countries. If the impetus of international solidarity was maintained, the Sudano-Sahelian region could hope to survive. He thanked all the donors and organizations which had participated in the relief operations, particularly FAO, and welcomed the decision of the Secretary-General to transfer part of the activities of the United Nations Special Sahelian Office from New York to the drought-affected region and the establishment of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control. He also welcomed the appointment of Mr. Magdi as Director of the United Nations Sahelian Office at Ouagadougou in the Upper Volta, the main functions for which were outlined in paragraph 8 of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in accordance with paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 3054 (XXVIII) (A/9733). He again thanked all those who had combined their efforts to enable the populations of the Sudano-Sahelian region to survive.

11. Mr. KÉITA (Mali) said he was pleased that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO had been able to see for themselves the reality of the problems that were preoccupying the Governments and populations of the Sudano-Sahelian region. The visit of Mali had also silenced a certain section of the press which was avid for sensations. On behalf of his Government he thanked the United Nations and its specialized agencies for the material and moral support they had given to the Sahel.

12. Miss DIAROU MEYE (Niger) recalled that, at the 2253rd plenary meeting of the General Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Niger had described the disastrous situation prevailing in that country, which had suffered greatly from the drought, and had expressed his gratitude to all who had concerned themselves with the Sahel and the hope that their efforts would continue. The Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs had sought untiringly to make world public opinion aware of the tragedy of desertification. He had been at the very heart of the international campaign to organize immediate emergency relief and had helped to set up the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control and the Special Sahelian Office in the United Nations, whose action was bound to benefit the Sudano-Sahelian countries. She congratulated the Under-Secretary General and thanked him on behalf of her delegation for his dedication.

13. Mr. BERKOL (United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator) said that since the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (A/9637) had been prepared, eight new disasters had occurred requiring the Office's main attention. At the same time, the Office had pursued its activities and had undertaken new ones in the pre-disaster planning field. In addition, it continued to be involved in emergency activities in Ethiopia, where the food shortage remained extremely serious in the southern part of the country. However, with the introduction of numerous

short- and long-term rehabilitation projects and good harvests in certain areas of the country, the situation in Ethiopia was currently improving, and if all went well the Office should be able to terminate or reduce its assistance operations in the coming months.

14. Recent disasters which had required intervention by the Office were the following: the drought in the western part of the Sudan; landslides and flooding in Peru; torrential rains and wind storms in Chile; flooding and landslides in Colombia; flooding and food shortages in Bangladesh; floods in the Philippines and Burma; and a devastating hurricane in Honduras.

15. Following the drought which had struck the western part of the Sudan in May and the request for assistance from the Sudanese Government, a representative of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator had gone to Khartoum for consultations with the Sudanese Government and United Nations officials. The 2,900 tons of wheat provided by the World Food Programme had enabled the Sudanese authorities to release 4,000 tons of sorghum from stocks in the eastern region of the country. The UNDP and the Office had each contributed \$20,000 towards overland freight and distribution costs in the afflicted areas. Work was currently under way on the elaboration of rehabilitation projects.

16. At the same time, a landslide in Peru caused by earth tremors and torrential rains had occurred in the region of the Mantaro river, killing 400 people. In response to an appeal from the Peruvian Government, many Governments, the Red Cross and numerous voluntary agencies had helped evacuate several thousand persons from the disaster area. With funds allocated by the Co-ordinator and cash contributions from several donor Governments emergency supplies had been sent to Lima and the evacuated population resettled in safe areas.

17. In June, 250,000 persons had been affected as a result of torrential rains and wind storms which had struck 13 provinces of Chile. With an allocation from the Office and contributions from other donors, the need for supplies and medicaments had been met promptly by airlift.

18. The Office's financial contribution had also made it possible to cover the cost of an airlift to supply the population in Colombia which had been isolated as a result of a tragic landslide in July.

19. In Bangladesh, in July and August, severe flooding had compounded the already difficult economic situation into a disaster. Two representatives of the Office had been sent to the area to assess the emergency needs and assist in the local co-ordination of relief. Contributions from various States Members of the United Nations, channelled through the Office, had made it possible to meet the food needs of the affected population. In addition, part of the funds allocated by the United Nations for emergency operation in Bangladesh had been used to reroute a cargo of rice to Bangladesh and it would arrive before the end of the month. He would continue to see to it that food-stuffs were delivered promptly, so as to avoid widespread starvation. He stated that the Second Committee, during its consideration of

agenda item 60, had adopted a draft resolution² calling for further aid for Bangladesh.

20. In August, when disastrous flooding had occurred in the Philippines, the Philippine National Disaster Control Centre had immediately mobilized all available local resources and co-ordinated the rescue and relief efforts. The Office had financed the procurement of relief items and several Governments and voluntary agencies had provided substantial additional assistance.

21. Also in August, in response to Burma's request for assistance following floods in that country, the Office had made an allocation from its emergency fund for the immediate dispatch by WHO of cholera vaccine and other medicaments. Several Governments and voluntary agencies had also provided substantial financial assistance to Burma.

22. In September, a devastating hurricane had ravaged the northern coast of Honduras, taking a heavy toll in lives and causing substantial property damage in the space of a few hours. There had been a massive and rapid international response to the Honduran Government's appeal for help. Within 24 hours of the disaster, a representative of the Office had been dispatched to assist the United Nations relief team and the Honduran Government in assessing the relief requirements and in organizing local relief co-ordination. As of 31 October, contributions had passed the \$21 million mark. A representative of the Office would remain in Honduras for another two months to report on changing relief needs and to assist in relief-co-ordination. A special plenary session of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) had been held on 21 and 22 October 1974 to discuss programmes for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Honduras, and the Second Committee had adopted a draft resolution on economic and social aid to that country.³

23. Lastly, a representative of the Office had recently visited Somalia, at the request of the Somali Government, and had reported on a drought problem and a deteriorating health situation in that region. The Office was drawing up a programme of assistance for Somalia in collaboration with the World Food Programme and WHO.

24. Currently the Office was dealing simultaneously with nine disaster situations in various regions of the world and had only five officials to shoulder that heavy workload. In addition, the fact that more and more Governments and organizations were channelling their contributions through the Office entailed additional work for which no staff resources were available.

25. Turning to the field of disaster prevention and pre-disaster planning, he said that his Office had continued to make good progress but at a much slower rate than had initially been hoped for, due to lack of staff. The Office of the Co-ordinator had provided expert advisory services in pre-disaster planning to nine countries and was about to send an expert to Indonesia. In addition, a joint UNDP/ ECLA/ILPES (Latin American Institute for Economic and

² Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 3244 (XXIX).

³ *Idem*, resolution 3242 (XXIX).

Social Planning) mission which had visited seven countries in Latin America had just formulated a regional UNDP project for assistance to the Andean countries in the prevention of disasters, training of staff in disaster-related activities and elaboration of mutual assistance agreements. He recalled that at the preceding session of the General Assembly he had proposed to the Third Committee, at its 2040th meeting, that an international strategy for disaster prevention should be elaborated and that that proposal had been supported by a large number of delegations. Economic and Social Council resolution 1891 (LVII) also testified to the interest that had been aroused by the question of disaster prevention. Within the framework of that international strategy, the Office had focused the first part of its study on disaster prevention and mitigation and its two main objectives were to identify the knowledge acquired in that field in order to apply it in disaster-prone developing countries and to identify areas in which concerted efforts by the international community were needed. In addition to such qualitative data, it would also be necessary to collect precise quantitative information on the actual costs of disasters. In a large number of developing countries, the damage caused was so extensive that it actually brought about a regression in those countries. A world survey of disaster damage was needed to enable each country not only to assess the financial value of its losses and adopt long-term policies for disaster prevention, but also to carry out in each case cost-benefit analyses of various disaster prevention methods. Other activities undertaken in the field of pre-disaster planning included the preparation of practical manuals on precautions to be taken in the planning construction and management of human settlements; it was expected that those preparations would be completed by mid-1975. All those activities were part of the over-all effort of UNDRO to include in the economic and physical development plans of disaster-prone countries specific provisions taking into account disaster risks.

26. He welcomed the fact that, for the first time, the activities of his Office had been discussed by the Second Committee. During the discussion which had taken place in that Committee (1620th to 1624th meetings), he had noted with satisfaction that all delegations had expressed support for an increase in the resources of the Office both for disaster relief co-ordination and for disaster prevention. He was convinced that those additional resources would enable the Office to carry out its many responsibilities in a more effective way than in the past, with the necessary means.

27. Mr. SOLOMON (Ethiopia) said, that despite its limited resources and small staff, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator had amply demonstrated that it could play a valuable role in the mobilization and co-ordination of disaster relief and in pre-disaster planning and preparedness. His delegation was convinced that the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary-General (A/9637, paras. 26 to 30) would receive the support of the Committee.

28. The drought prevailing in 11 provinces in Ethiopia seemed to be part of a profound ecological disturbance which was affecting several African countries and might have disastrous consequences. The international community must therefore consider ways and means of combating that alarming phenomenon, which caused the deterioration of

the soil and the living conditions of the people. Emergency relief made it possible to solve problems temporarily, but it was also necessary, with the assistance of the international community, to ensure the recovery of the economies of the countries affected to enable them to deal with that kind of calamity in future.

29. For the past four years, the northern and eastern provinces of Ethiopia had been experiencing drought as a result of the cumulative effects of insufficient rainfall. Because of the lack of communications, the full extent of the losses had not been known until quite recently, but more than 3 million persons had been directly affected and nearly 2,000 had died of starvation and drought-related diseases; hundreds of villages had been abandoned and herds had been seriously depleted. The response of bilateral and international bodies, particularly the World Food Programme, UNDRO, UNICEF, FAO, and UNDP, had been prompt and positive, but it was now necessary to ensure the economic recovery of the regions affected. Thousands of people might still die of starvation and, in Degebur, the most seriously affected province, a third of the population was facing famine and a serious water shortage. His Government requested Member States to provide it with additional funds, medical supplies and food grains and appealed to the international community to help it to overcome the crisis and act effectively in future against that recurrent threat. It hoped that the Office of the Co-ordinator would pursue its commendable efforts.

30. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) said that the Philippines, a disaster-prone country, had, as stated by the Co-ordinator, established a National Centre for the Prevention of National Disasters with the participation of various ministries. It was therefore particularly glad that there was an international Office entrusted with the task of assisting countries to adopt preventive measures and provide disaster relief. As proof of the high esteem in which it held the Office of the Co-ordinator, her country had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution⁴ which was designed to strengthen the role of the Office before the Second Committee.

31. Mrs. BERTRAND DE BROMLEY (Honduras) stressed that it was always the poorest countries which were most seriously affected by natural disasters. Her country had recently had occasion to see how effectively and promptly the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator provided assistance and it hoped that the General Assembly would give that Office the means to carry out its humanitarian work.

32. Mr. KARIM (Bangladesh) said that the statement by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the report of the Secretary-General (A/9637) were eloquent testimonies to the effectiveness of the Office of the Co-ordinator, which provided emergency relief to many countries. He expressed his gratitude to the Office for the relief operation now being carried out in his country. When such enormous disasters occurred, the efforts of the countries concerned where, of course, essential, but insufficient. The report of the Secretary-General showed the limitations under which UNDRO was working. His delega-

⁴ *Idem*, resolution 3243 (XXIX).

tion fully supported the recommendations made in the report of the Secretary-General and designed to strengthen the Office of the Co-ordinator in terms both of resources and of staff.

33. Miss BIHI (Somalia) said that one of the most urgent tasks facing the world community was to deal with natural disasters. The developing countries, which were the least well equipped to solve those problems, must receive relief assistance so that their development efforts would not be negated. Natural disasters seemed, however, to have become a permanent feature of contemporary life. As the President of the Somali Democratic Republic had stated at the 2262nd plenary meeting of the General Assembly, it was necessary to continue to study the phenomenon of natural disasters, to ensure the continued operation of the regional and international machinery set up to deal with the effects of natural disasters and to establish relief programmes on a permanent basis. The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, established by General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI), had two main functions, namely, the co-ordination of relief with a view to avoiding confusion about the necessary supplies, waste in transport and duplication of effort; and pre-disaster planning and preparedness in disaster-prone countries.

34. Her Government wished to place on record that it appreciated the way in which the Office, despite its limited resources and shortage of staff, had been able to provide rapid assistance to about 40 disaster-stricken areas. Somalia would like the Office to devote more attention to the question of preparedness in disaster-prone countries, but it could hardly be expected to do so if it had only five staff members in the professional category. Somalia therefore appealed to all donor countries to increase the staff and financial resources of the Office.

35. Mr. ELTAYEB (Sudan) said that the work carried out by the Office of the Co-ordinator was indeed remarkable in view of the limited resources available to it. He approved the guidelines for its activities, particularly with regard to research on preventive measures, and confirmed the need to strengthen the Office.

36. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had completed its discussion of the humanitarian aspects of agenda item 60. She suggested that the Rapporteur should be requested to include in the report to the General Assembly a paragraph indicating that the Committee had taken note with satisfaction of the introductory statements.

It was so decided.

Mr. Sayar (Iran), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

37. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to resume its consideration of section B of chapter V of the report of the Economic and Security Council (A/9603) and in particular the draft resolutions (A/C.3/L.2121 and A/C.3/L.2123/Rev.1) which were before it relating to this topic.

38. Mr. WIGGINS (United States of America) said that the first preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2121 should be altered to read: "Recalling its resolutions 3145 (XXVIII) and 3146 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973,".

39. Mr. SÖYLEMEZ (Turkey) said that in the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2123/Rev.1, the words "narcotic and psychotropic substances both present" should be changed to "misuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances presents". He announced that Denmark and India had become sponsors of the draft resolution, and on behalf of the sponsors he suggested that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus.

40. Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that, having consulted with some of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2123/Rev.1, he proposed that in operative paragraph 4 the word "necessary", which he considered to be too restrictive for the Fund, should be replaced by the word "appropriate".

41. Mr. SÖYLEMEZ (Turkey) stressed that not all the sponsors of the draft resolution had been consulted. It was therefore impossible for him to decide one way or the other at that stage. When he had introduced the draft resolution he had stressed that the Fund would provide the assistance in question within the limits of the means available to it and that it would remain in control of its resources.

42. Mrs. HEANEY (Ireland) said that she would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2123/Rev.1, but wished to propose a few drafting changes in the English text. In the fifth preambular paragraph, the definite article "the" should be added before the word "misuse" which had been added by the representative of Turkey. In operative paragraphs 2 and 4 the word "against" should be replaced by the word "of".

43. Mr. RAZA (Pakistan) suggested that the sponsors of the draft resolution should hold consultations and that the Committee should continue its work. The amendment proposed by the representative of the United Kingdom was an improvement, since if the word "necessary" was used, it would relate to the standpoint of the countries concerned, whereas the word "appropriate" would relate to that of the Fund.

44. Mr. EVANS (Australia) agreed with the representative of Pakistan and wondered whether the other sponsors accepted the proposal of the United Kingdom.

45. Mr. SRINIVASAN (India) pointed out that the existing text of the draft resolution was a result of patient and conscientious efforts by the sponsors, who had taken into account a number of points of view. In order to avoid lengthy discussion, he suggested that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus.

46. Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that in presenting his suggestion he had had no intention of complicating matters; the word "appropriate" had seemed to him to be more suitable than the word "necessary", as it was less restrictive, but he was prepared to accept the existing wording on the understanding that no restriction would be placed on the use of the Fund's resources.

47. The CHAIRMAN noted that the text of operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2123/Rev.1 remained unchanged and suggested that members of the

Committee should proceed to vote on that draft resolution and on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2121, draft resolution A/C.3/L.2122 having been withdrawn. He invited representatives who wished to explain their votes at that point to do so without waiting for the vote.

48. Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution concerning illicit traffic and abuse of narcotic drugs (A/C.3/L.2123/Rev.1) because it supported the aim of the draft resolution, which was to strengthen international co-operation in combating the traffic in narcotic drugs. However, he expressed some reservations on the language of the draft resolution; it made no distinctions with regard to narcotic drugs and its contained exaggerated generalizations about the problem.

49. At the fifty-sixth session of the Economic and Social Council, his delegation had indicated the position of the Netherlands Government with respect to the use and abuse of drugs. The Netherlands Government, and also the Parliament and various interested organizations, were actively concerned with the question. Two fundamental distinctions should be made; a distinction should be made between, on the one hand, drugs whose use entailed unacceptable risks, and, on the other hand, cannabis products; and a distinction should also be made between the illicit traffic and trade in drugs and the possession of drugs for personal use. The Netherlands intended to increase the penalties for the illicit traffic and trade in drugs of the first category, while considering the possession of cannabis products, when they were solely for personal use, as a minor offence.

50. As far as the chronic use of drugs entailing unacceptable risks was concerned, the Netherlands considered that the problem should be placed in its social context and that efforts should be made to resolve it by preventive measures rather than by repression.

51. His delegation had wished to explain its position before proceeding to vote on the draft resolution.

52. Mr. TRAVERT (France) thanked the representative of the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination for the excellent statement he had made to the Committee at the 2079th meeting. The clear picture he had presented had shown that the struggle against the traffic and abuse of narcotic drugs would be long and arduous and that the efforts which had been undertaken should not be relaxed.

53. He had listened with great interest to the explanations given by the representative of Turkey on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2123/Rev.1 concerning the guarantees planned by the Turkish Government following its decision to lift the ban on the cultivation of poppies. His delegation would therefore support that draft resolution. It hoped that the Committee would adopt that resolution and also draft resolution A/C.3/L.2121, of which it was a sponsor, by consensus.

54. Mr. MESSING-MIERZEJEWSKI (Office for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said, with regard to the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2123/Rev.1, that

the Secretary-General, taking into account the limited resources of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, would honour requests on the basis of their nature and of the amount of resources available.

55. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) said that his delegation would prefer draft resolution A/C.3/L.2121 to be put to the vote rather than be adopted by consensus.

56. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2121 and on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2123/Rev.1.

Draft resolution A/C.3/L.2121 as orally amended was adopted by 100 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

Draft resolution A/C.3/L.2123/Rev.1 as orally amended was adopted without objection.

57. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, as his delegation had already stated on a number of occasions to various bodies, including the Economic and Social Council, it considered that in order to struggle effectively at the international level against the illicit traffic and abuse of narcotic drugs, measures should first be taken at the national level; that aspect of the problem had been ignored in draft resolution A/C.3/L.2121 and that was why his delegation had abstained in the vote. With regard to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2123/Rev.1, his delegation considered that the wording which had been adopted was inexact, particularly in the first preambular paragraph, where it was stated that drug abuse and illicit trafficking had transcended national boundaries and affected the well-being and the health of mankind as a whole. That statement was not quite true, because the problem of narcotic drugs essentially concerned certain regions of the world or certain countries and was the result of the social order which prevailed in certain societies. His delegation could not agree that the problem was a world problem and considered that the solution should be found at the national level, each State taking the necessary measures separately, and international action being viewed only as complementary to those measures. Thus if the draft resolution in question had been put to the vote, his delegation would have abstained on that text too.

58. Mr. SRINIVASAN (India) said that his delegation was very satisfied that draft resolution A/C.3/L.2121 had been adopted because it considered that it was essential for the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control to be maintained. India was not currently in a position to make a very large contribution to the Fund, but it had considerable technical experience in the matter because to date it was the only legal producer of opium for export. India was prepared to share its experience with all countries which wished it to do so.

59. Mrs. MASSON (Canada) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution on illicit traffic and abuse of narcotic drugs (A/C.3/L.2123/Rev.1) because it understood its objectives. However, it had some difficulties with regard to operative paragraph 4. It was, in her delegation's view, important that the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should devote their limited resources to drug abuse

control, and particularly to projects concerning education, treatment, training and research. Canada made the second largest contribution to the Fund, and her delegation was concerned about the possibility thus opened up that the Fund's slender resources might be applied to bilateral technical assistance projects. While it was true that those countries which were preparing to apply new methods of drug control needed technical and financial assistance, that assistance should be provided on a bilateral basis or through multilateral agencies with larger resources, such as the World Bank and UNDP. Her delegation agreed that the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control could in certain circumstances contribute to the administration of bilateral aid in the field of narcotic drugs, but it considered that the Fund should not have to bear the financial burden of those programmes unless its budget was increased accordingly.

60. The CHAIRMAN invited the members of the Committee to resume consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2127, on the manner in which matters dealt with by the Economic and Social Council should be treated, submitted by Finland, Italy, Mexico and Morocco. He announced that Ecuador also had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

61. Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) said that the Federal Republic of Germany and Ireland had also become sponsors of the draft resolution. The draft resolution appeared to have aroused misgivings in some delegations. After consulting many members of the Committee, her delegation proposed to make certain changes in it, which, she hoped, would alleviate those difficulties. In order that operative paragraph 1 should not be liable to misinterpretation, as some delegations feared, she proposed that the following phrase should be added: "without prejudice to the priority generally accorded to specific questions included in the agenda as separate items". With regard to the possible disruption of the hierarchy of the various organs, which some feared might result, she explained that the text could in no way jeopardize that hierarchy. The sponsors of the draft resolution merely wished all members of the Committee to be equally well-briefed when they attended the General Assembly, on all the work of the various organs, at all levels, including the work done after the summer session of the Economic and Social Council.

62. Mr. BAL (Mauritania) said that, after hearing the statement by the representative of Italy, he had the impression that he was back at the start of the session, during the debate on organization of work. Despite the explanations just given, he continued to have doubts regarding the merits of the draft resolution. It amounted to anticipating action to be taken in years to come. That was impossible, in view of the political and social implications of items considered which might be on the agenda of other committees. Moreover, he felt that the concept of priority that had been invoked was not clearly defined. He asked whether, for example, if the Committee decided to consider the report of the Economic and Social Council as its sixth item, that would constitute priority. In any event, the United Nations system had an established procedure for the consideration of agenda items. If the draft resolution was adopted, the prescribed procedure for referring an item to a particular commission of the Economic and Social Council would no longer be respected. Items dealt with in August

by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities would be brought before the Third Committee, when they should have been considered the following year by the Economic and Social Council. The Third Committee, which was sovereign with regard to decisions which directly concerned it, could not take decisions which entailed commitments for other United Nations organs. Moreover, no mention was made of the possible financial implications of such a new procedure.

63. Furthermore, it was stated in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution that the priority in question would be given to "the pertinent chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council in the consideration . . . of questions of social progress and human rights". The Third Committee dealt essentially with social questions. However, a number of the items which came before it did not come within the purview of the Economic and Social Council; an example was the question of decolonization, which related to the field of human rights. He did not see why priority should be given to the report of the Economic and Social Council as opposed to such items.

64. The change proposed by the representative of Italy merely served to encumber the text while in no way changing the spirit of the draft resolution, which, in his view, had no real justification. Moreover, the draft resolution was contrary to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly; rule 99 stipulated that, at the beginning of each session, each Main Committee should decide the order of priority to be accorded the items referred to it. In the first preambular paragraph, reference was made to the high priority given to the report of the Economic and Social Council. That was the result of a decision taken by the Committee for purposes of the twenty-ninth session, but there was no reason to regard that decision as a statement of established custom. In the second preambular paragraph, there was mention of "an appropriate balance". It was not clear to him how the draft resolution could contribute to establish an appropriate balance between items which were all important.

65. Accordingly, he would vote against draft resolution A/C.3/L.2127 if it was put to the vote.

66. Mr. KOMISAROV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) pointed out that the priority given to consideration of the report of the Economic and Social Council at the current session of the General Assembly was in accordance with the custom whereby the Committee set an order of priority for the questions before it at the beginning of its work, an order of priority which it could change subsequently if it so wished. To set an order of priority for the future would be tantamount to establishing a procedure for the automatic assignment of priorities, which would indubitably have the result of slowing down the Committee's work. It was true that there would be some advantage in improving the existing procedure. At the fifty-sixth session of the Economic and Social Council, the question of narcotic drugs had been considered in detail and resolutions had been adopted that did not call for decisions by the General Assembly. The Committee, however, was currently discussing that question over again—an apparent instance of unjustifiable duplication. However, when the representative of Italy said, with regard to operative paragraph 2 of draft

resolution A/C.3/L.2127, which proposed the preparation of a concise note informing the General Assembly of the activities of subsidiary organs, that the only purpose of such a note would be to provide the members of the Committee with additional information, it was hard to follow her argument. It was clear that the purpose of reporting to the General Assembly on those activities was not solely for its information but in order that the General Assembly could utilize that information in its work. If that line of reasoning were pursued the only logical solution would be to alter the calendar of conferences.

67. For those reasons, his delegation considered that draft resolution A/C.3/L.2127, as it stood, even taking into account the proposed amendments, was unacceptable.

68. Mr. POC THIEUN (Khmer Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the People's Republic of China during her intervention at the 2080th meeting has seen fit to make offensive remarks concerning the Khmer Republic. To use her words, only the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia had the

right to represent Cambodia in international organizations, and not the Lon Nol clique. He asked on what legal grounds the representative of China based such a judgement. That assertion was, in fact, based on a personal opinion and was therefore to be treated with caution. The Khmer Government had the most solid constitutional and popular foundations. It had its headquarters in the capital of the country, controlled the greater part of the territory and administered the great majority of the population, which had full confidence in it. The 200,000 people who had sought refuge in the country were sufficient proof of that confidence and of the legitimacy of the Khmer Government, which alone had the right to be represented in all international organizations.

69. Mrs. WU Yu-yi (China) reaffirmed the stand taken by her delegation and repeated that the Lon Nol clique was illegally occupying a seat in the United Nations which legitimately belonged to the representative of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

2083rd meeting

Wednesday, 6 November 1974, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters III (sections D to F), IV (section J), V (sections A to C, D, paragraphs 436 to 478, 487 to 492 and 494 to 506, and E), VI (sections A.1 to 5 and 7, E and G) and VII (sections 1 to 3)] (continued) (A/9603, A/9637, A/9707, A/9733, A/9737, A/9764, A/9767, A/9785, A/C.3/L.2127)

1. Mr. SAYAR (Iran) welcomed the fact that 98 States had ratified the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961,¹ which had now come into force. Iran had initiated the procedures for the ratification of the two other international instruments on narcotic drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances² and the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961.³ Iran urged all countries which had not yet done so to accede to the Single Convention, which was the pivot of the entire system of measures for the prevention of drug abuse. In that connexion he emphasized the importance which his Government attached to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, which it had supported from the outset. In 1973, the Iranian Government had decided to increase its regular contribution to the Fund and to make a special contribution, which would be substantial.

2. There was no need to recall the reasons which had prompted the Iranian Government to resume opium culti-

vation a few years before. Those reasons had been given by his delegation in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and in other international forums. Iran's international commitments did not conflict with its decision to authorize the national production of opium, which was strictly for local consumption. Furthermore, the areas where the opium poppy was cultivated were under strict control by Government agents and a special permit was required for each poppy-growing region.

3. The Government's decision to reduce the area under poppy from 20,000 to 2,000 hectares had been put into effect in 1973 and the number of provinces where poppy cultivation was authorized had been reduced from 19 to 14 and would be further reduced as the measures to combat drug addiction and to rehabilitate drug addicts produced results. The *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1973*⁴ mentioned the Iranian Government's willingness to co-operate in the international drug control system and to apply the provisions of the Single Convention. It also stated that in Iran there had been no cases of the diversion of opium to the illicit market. However, it was still necessary to produce a certain quantity of opium for the number of registered opium addicts—registration had become compulsory when poppy cultivation had been resumed—which had been nearly 120,000 in 1973, without counting the many addicts who were not registered. For the last two decades one of his Government's major concerns had been to provide facilities for the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. In 1973, 7,695 drug addicts had

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515, p. 151.

² E/CONF.58/6 and Corr.1 and 2.

³ E/CONF.63/8.

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.74.XI.2 and corrigendum.