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Chairman: Mr. Vratislav PĚCHOTA
(Czechoslovakia).

AGENDA ITEM 86

Technical assistance to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/6492, A/C.6/L.611/Rev. 1 and Add.1)

1. Mr. BLIX (Sweden) said that the Secretary-General's report (A/6492) was most encouraging and provided evidence that the programme adopted in General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX) was about to take concrete shape. His delegation appreciated the excellent work of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee and the response that the programme had evoked in the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Governments, and other institutions.
2. He would comment on only a few points in the report. Concerning the first part of the programme—steps to encourage and co-ordinate existing international law programmes carried out by States and by organizations and institutions—it would be desirable for the Secretariat to function as a clearing-house for the information obtained from individual Governments and institutions regarding their international law programmes for the following year. The attention of the sponsors of such programmes might be called to cases where seminars or courses appeared to overlap. His delegation shared the Secretary-General's view (*ibid.*, para. 14) that inquiries should be limited to organizations that had as their centre of activity the field of international law. Of course, information about programmes of international legal interest sponsored by Governments and by institutions must also be obtained.
3. The Hammarskjöld Foundation in Sweden had arranged two seminars in public international law in the past year: one, at The Hague, on international law relating to economic development, the law of the United Nations and principles relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes; the other, at Uppsala,

on the law of treaties. The seminars had been attended by some thirty-five advanced students and young government officials from developing countries, without cost to the participants or their countries. Two seminars of the same kind were planned for 1967 at Uppsala. Invitations would be sent to ministries of foreign affairs, ministries of justice and universities, but his delegation would also transmit to the Foundation the names of suitable candidates mentioned by other delegations.

4. The survey of the teaching of international law to be published by UNESCO (*ibid.*, para. 22) might offer encouragement to Governments to provide for more teaching of international law. The UNESCO study programme (*ibid.*, para. 26) might be of great use to educational authorities, not only in the developing countries but elsewhere.

5. His Government had been gratified by the continued success of the Geneva Seminar on International Law, which used the resources of the International Law Commission and made the Commission's work better known. His Government, which in 1965 had offered a scholarship to increase participation in that Seminar by students from developing countries, would again make available to the United Nations the sum of \$1,500 to facilitate such participation in the Seminar to be held in 1967.

6. The important activities planned by UNITAR in the field of international law would implement elements of the programme under discussion. The pamphlet describing the work of the International Law Commission, which was to be published by the United Nations (*ibid.*, para. 16), would be descriptive of the codification effort; whereas the survey planned by UNITAR (*ibid.*, para. 32) would be the product of research that UNITAR was uniquely well placed to undertake, and it would undoubtedly show that the codification effort was far from being a mere academic exercise.

7. His delegation appreciated the Tanzanian Government's offer to provide facilities for the 1967 regional training and refresher course in Africa and hoped that the discussions between UNESCO and the United Nations would result in a joint venture that would take advantage of that offer.

8. The draft resolution contained in document A/C.6/L.611/Rev.1 appeared to cover all essential points, and his delegation, accordingly, would support it.

9. Mr. TILINCA (Romania) said that his Government, which attached great importance to the item under discussion, had already expressed its views

on the subject in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General^{1/} and in statements made at previous sessions.

10. The adoption of measures sponsored by the United Nations and its specialized agencies to ensure a wider and deeper knowledge of international law would undoubtedly contribute to establishing international relations on new bases of justice and law. The promotion of the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law was one of the means by which the United Nations could achieve the aims set by the Charter. When relations among States were based on observance of the right of every people to decide its own fate, respect for national sovereignty and independence, equality of rights, non-interference in the domestic affairs of other States, and mutual advantage, a thorough knowledge of the law was essential to the defence and strengthening of international legality; that, in turn, contributed to the establishment of a climate of mutual respect, understanding and confidence, in which individual States could develop fully.

11. He recalled that General Assembly resolution 2037 (XX), the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, unanimously adopted at the preceding session, provided that young people must become conscious of their responsibilities in the world that they would be called upon to manage and should be inspired with confidence in a future of happiness for mankind. The different forms of study of international law contemplated by the programme were intended mainly for young people working in various fields of international relations and would help them to understand their responsibilities and to promote the ideals proclaimed by the Declaration.

12. His delegation appreciated the efforts made by the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee and the participation of UNESCO and UNITAR. It looked forward confidently to the conclusion of the discussions between UNESCO and the United Nations regarding the joint organization of the 1967 regional course. Although the result so far obtained from the requests for voluntary contributions had been modest, his delegation was convinced that the discussions at the current session would help to produce better results in the future. All schools of international law, whatever their basic legal system, should participate in promoting the teaching, study and dissemination of international law. The equality of the various legal systems was a corollary of the principle of sovereign equality of States. If it was organized in that way, the technical assistance programme in the field of international law would soon prove its worth.

13. Mr. EL ARABY (United Arab Republic) said that the item before the Committee had considerable importance for the world community, in particular, for the developing countries. It was an accepted fact that international law was no longer a group of norms of a prohibitive character devised principally to regulate relations among certain States;

it currently covered almost every aspect of human activity. The new conception of international law had been embodied in several Articles of the Charter and reaffirmed by various General Assembly resolutions, particularly General Assembly resolution 1815 (XVII) on consideration of the principles of friendly relations and co-operation among States. The developing countries of Africa and Asia, which had not participated in the formulation of traditional international law, inasmuch as the majority of them had been under colonial rule and deprived of the attributes of sovereignty, were now participating actively in the evolution and progressive development of international law.

14. His delegation welcomed the programme and the activities described in the Secretary-General's report, and it hoped that in the future the programme would be greatly increased. It suggested that, apart from the steps taken by United Nations organs, all Governments should be urged to give more financial grants and scholarships for the study of international law at their national universities and institutions. It was grateful to UNESCO and UNITAR for their active role in the implementation of the programme and hoped that UNITAR, which in its opinion was an ideal organ for the task, would in the future be adequately financed so as to be able to continue its valuable contribution. It also appreciated the generous offer of the United Republic of Tanzania concerning the 1967 regional seminar and hoped that there would soon be an affirmative reply from UNESCO. Although the Secretary-General's report was, of course, rather tentative in character, his delegation endorsed the recommendations and the steps envisaged in it and was particularly gratified that special attention had been given to the developing countries. Lastly, it hoped that the programme would not be wholly dependent on voluntary contributions and that adequate appropriations would be made for it in the United Nations regular budget.

15. Mr. AL-ANBARI (Iraq) said that the receding of colonial rule and the subsequent emergence of many developing countries had given international law a new direction and had emphasized the principle of sovereign equality of States. International law was no longer a set of rules designed simply to regulate the relationships and harmonize the interests of the great Powers. It had evolved along lines that reflected a genuinely international, universal character. The developing countries looked to it for the defence of their legitimate interests and the widening of their participation in the developing of new norms of international conduct. In his Government's opinion the wide acceptance of the idea and policy of non-alignment had helped to guide international law in that direction.

16. In that context General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX) had been of major significance. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the timely development of the programme established in that resolution, as reflected in the Secretary-General's report. International law should be further developed to reflect and to harmonize the interests and different cultures of all members of the international community. The forms of direct assistance and exchange

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 89, document A/5744.

dealt with in chapter II, section B, of the Secretary-General's report would serve that purpose. Supervision and guidance by an international body and by prominent experts would help to permeate the teaching, study, and dissemination of international law with an international spirit. It would open up wider international horizons in local and national legal thought.

17. His Government valued the participation of UNESCO in the programme. By bringing its wide experience to bear, UNESCO could make the study of international law an integral part of related disciplines. His delegation appreciated the efforts of UNITAR, and looked forward, in particular, to seeing the results of the studies listed in paragraph 35 of the Secretary-General's report.

18. Developing countries needed legal assistance from the United Nations. His delegation hoped that full advantage would be taken of the United Nations assistance available in specific fields of international law related to economic, social or administrative development, which had been referred to in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX).

19. His delegation would vote for the draft resolution in document A/C.6/L.611/Rev.1, which reflected many of its views.

20. Mr. DARWIN (United Kingdom) said that his Government fully supported the work done by the Secretary-General, as described in his report. That report also recorded the action taken by the Advisory Committee established under General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX), on which his delegation had been represented, and its recommendations, which had the general support of its members. The report showed that although the activities it dealt with had the common aim of promoting knowledge of international law, they were very diverse. Co-ordination and co-operation with other governmental and non-governmental organizations, both within the United Nations family and outside it, was therefore essential.

21. As far as co-operation with United Nations organs was concerned, his delegation observed with interest that in the Advisory Committee's recommendations the part of the programme concerned with advisory services was now recognized as falling within the field of technical assistance already available to Member States. It noted with satisfaction the co-operation established or planned with UNESCO. In particular, it welcomed the discussions between UNESCO and the United Nations on the possibility of a joint regional training course and seminar in Africa in 1967. It hoped that the General Conference of UNESCO would endorse the preliminary proposals worked out by the two bodies. The collaboration established with UNITAR was also satisfactory. His Government had read with interest in the report of UNITAR (see A/6500, para. 40) that the Institute fully recognized that international law fell within its competence and that it was giving the subject an important place. The United Kingdom supported the seminar which, according to the programme annexed to General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX), was to be held in Latin America in 1968 and was in favour of the

proposal that it should take place under the auspices of UNITAR.

22. States had just as much of a role to play as international organizations. His Government was grateful to the Tanzanian Government for its offer to provide host facilities for the regional training and refresher course to be held in Africa in 1967. Other countries too numerous to mention were also helping to achieve the aims the United Nations had set itself, and in that connexion he expressed appreciation for the statement made at the 943rd meeting by the Nigerian representative. The course held by the United Kingdom in 1965 for government legal officers from overseas, to which his delegation had referred at the previous session, was being held again in 1966. He would like also to draw the Committee's attention to the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, a private institution in London concerned with the practical application to current problems of public international law and comparative law (with particular reference to Commonwealth and common law and the legal problems of the European Community). The Institute organized meetings and conferences and conducted and prompted research. It published a journal entitled The International and Comparative Law Quarterly and a wide range of other works. Its membership was worldwide, and it was financed largely from grants from charitable foundations. Some of its activities related closely to the item under discussion. First, it granted a number of fellowships in public international law every year. Their purpose was to enable graduates in law, normally resident in a country other than the United Kingdom, to undertake a course of study in public international law approved by the Institute at a university in the United Kingdom. The fellowships provided for the fellow's maintenance and travel costs. Secondly, in 1966 the Institute had paid for a participant from a developing country to attend the Geneva Seminar on International Law. Third, it had served as a centre of information concerning experts whose services in the field of international law might be useful to developing countries. A register of such experts was to be compiled by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX), and the United Kingdom Government had had the assistance of the Institute in preparing a list of names for submission to the Secretary-General. The work of the Institute was an example of the way in which private institutions could and did contribute to the advancement of international law throughout the world.

23. On the question of financing, the proposals in the Secretary-General's report and the Advisory Committee's agreed recommendations (see A/6492, para. 74) seemed appropriate to his Government. It could support the Advisory Committee's recommendation that if voluntary contributions were insufficient, some of the activities in the programme should be financed under the regular budget. But that position was without prejudice to his Government's general view that as a normal course such activities should be financed wholly through the United Nations Development Programme or other separate voluntary funds under the control of organizations and agencies that had competence in the field. It

expected that principle to be observed in connexion with the programme for 1968.

24. His delegation would vote for the draft resolution in document A/C.6/L.611/Rev.1. It was confident that the results achieved by the programme in 1967 would measure up to the hopes expressed in the Committee.

25. Mr. DABIRI (Iran) said that his delegation attached particular importance to the activities under discussion. By inculcating respect for the rules of law in the mind of each individual, the seeds of hostility could be destroyed and an era of spiritual unity and collective well-being ushered in. The success of United Nations activities in the field would require a concentration of efforts and co-ordination of plans on a world-wide scale. The Secretary-General's report showed the range and excellence of the work being done by the United Nations, which promised well for the future. The programmes for regional training courses, fellowships, seminars and publicizing of United Nations activities would help to achieve the aims set in General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX). In that connexion, his delegation wished to express its gratitude for the Tanzanian Government's offer to provide host facilities for the regional training course to be held in Africa in 1967. It would support the draft resolution in document A/C.6/L.611/Rev.1.

26. Mr. TERCEROS BANZER (Bolivia) said that his delegation had noted with interest the Secretary-General's report. Although the results achieved, particularly with regard to financing, had not been so satisfactory as might be desired, his delegation was grateful to those States that had made voluntary contributions or granted fellowships, as requested in General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX), and to those, such as Tanzania, that were helping in the implementation of the programme. Bolivia was pleased with the progress made by the United Nations and by UNESCO, and anxiously awaited the latter's final decision. It considered that the preparation of a register of experts in international law who could advise Governments would help the developing countries, including those in Latin America. Benefit could also be derived from co-operation with other organizations, although fewer replies had been received from them than might have been hoped for.

27. He drew the Committee's attention to the recently established Inter-American Institute of International Legal Studies and its work, which was referred to in paragraph 13 of the Secretary-General's report. His delegation also considered the publicity measures referred to in paragraphs 15-20 very important and welcomed the Secretary-General's promise that such activities would be expanded in future. The items for which UNESCO was responsible were of great interest, and it was to be hoped that if economically possible they would be extended to cover different geographical areas and different legal systems. In particular, with regard to the survey of the teaching of international law referred to in paragraph 22 and the programmes for the exchange of publications and strengthening of library facilities referred to in paragraphs 24 and 25, the need for Spanish editions should be borne in mind.

28. Bolivia attached special interest to the regional seminar planned for Latin America in 1968. The co-operation of UNESCO and UNITAR and of regional specialized institutions, such as the Inter-American Juridical Committee and the Inter-American Institute of International Legal Studies, would be required. Latin American Governments and universities undoubtedly would give the seminar all the support it deserved. The survey planned by UNITAR on the work of the United Nations in the progressive development and codification of international law should command the unanimous support of the Sixth Committee. In that connexion, his delegation warmly welcomed item 4 of the recommended 1967 programme submitted to the Assembly by the Secretary-General (see A/6492, para. 74), and, indeed, supported all his recommendations for both 1967 and 1968. It approved of the thirteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.6/L.611/Rev.1) in principle but reserved the right to speak on it again if necessary.

29. Mr. KHLESTOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the subject before the Committee was a wide and important one. Much could be said about the different kinds of aid given in the field of international law on a bilateral and multilateral basis. He would confine himself, however, to a few comments on the draft resolution, which reflected the considerable progress made by the Advisory Committee. First, he welcomed the inclusion of operative paragraph 2 accepting the Tanzanian Government's offer of host facilities, which was an example of the way different countries could help the general effort. Second, he considered the training courses proposed for 1967 useful, but he hoped that the selection of teachers would be made in such a way that the different regions of the world and the main legal systems were properly represented. It was essential also that the subjects dealt with should be chosen in such a way that they conformed to the purposes and principles of the Charter. Those same criteria should be applied in drawing up the register of experts who could assist the developing countries, which was a good idea. Third, he did not understand why it was proposed in operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution to change the name of the programme from what it had been in General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX), which had seemed to him clearer. The Soviet Union was in favour of technical assistance to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. It gave considerable bilateral aid to the developing countries for that purpose. There were many students from such countries currently receiving training in the USSR; and about 100 educational institutions concerned with international law had been set up in the developing countries with Soviet aid. Despite some minor shortcomings in the text, therefore, his delegation would support the draft resolution in document A/C.6/L.611/Rev.1.

30. Mr. BAL (Belgium) recalled that in 1965 his delegation had already stressed the need for carrying out indispensable fundamental research on technical assistance in the field of international law, which raised new problems. He noted with satisfaction that since the twentieth session of the General

Assembly, the Secretary-General had been able to gather valuable information that had not been available in 1965 and that subsequently had served as a basis for the Advisory Committee's recommendations in 1966. He hoped that it would prove possible, in the light of the additional information to be furnished by UNESCO, to carry out those recommendations, particularly those relating to the proposed course. His delegation had always asked that every effort be made to avoid duplication and to make the greatest possible use of existing resources and programmes, both within and outside the United Nations.

31. In principle, his delegation was prepared to support the draft resolution contained in document A/C.6/L.611/Rev.1. It agreed that the deletion of the word "technical" from the title of the programme in operative paragraph 6 could not justify any broadening of the scope of United Nations assistance in the matter. With respect to the financing of the programme, he recalled that at the preceding session his delegation had stated that it was prepared to agree, under certain conditions, to limited recourse to the regular budget of the United Nations for that purpose. For the future, he expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would continue to do everything possible to secure the valuable co-operation of competent agencies such as UNESCO and UNITAR. He thanked those agencies for the co-operative spirit they had shown in 1966.

32. Mr. YANGO (Philippines) said that his delegation was particularly interested in the item under consideration, inasmuch as the Philippines was a firm believer in the rule of law in international relations. There were a great many lawyers in the Philippines, no less than 28,000; consequently, there were a number of law associations in his country that could play a useful part in promoting the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. He suggested that the organization of similar associations in other Member States would be helpful in achieving the objectives set forth in the draft resolution in document A/C.6/L.611/Rev.1.

33. With respect to the Secretary-General's report, he noted that according to paragraph 14 the relatively small response to the Secretary-General's communication had made it difficult to prepare an adequate amount of information that would be of interest to all the organizations concerned. The fact that only six out of twenty-two organizations had responded to that communication did not necessarily indicate a lack of interest but might be due to the current inability of Governments to give more precise answers to the questions asked. For that reason, his delegation could not agree with the Secretary-General's proposal that in future years the list of recipient organizations should be restricted to those that were concerned chiefly with the field of international law.

34. He was hopeful that the Advisory Committee's recommendations to the Secretary-General would result in substantial savings through the merger of the United Nations seminar with that of UNESCO. His delegation also agreed with the Advisory Committee's decision to ask the Secretary-General to explore first the possibility of financing the pro-

gramme through voluntary contributions and the use of UNESCO, the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and UNITAR before resorting to the regular budget. Meanwhile, it would continue its efforts in its own country to encourage voluntary contributions to the Secretary-General's fund.

35. His delegation supported the draft resolution in document A/C.6/L.611/Rev.1. At the same time, it associated itself with the Italian representative's opinion (944th meeting) that the word "technical" should be inserted before the word "assistance" in the new name to be given to the United Nations programme of assistance in the field of international law.

36. Mr. JACOVIDES (Cyprus) said that his delegation was firmly convinced that the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law could do much to promote the cause of peace throughout the world. The topic was particularly relevant at the current time, when international lawlessness was widespread and many new nations that had not had an opportunity to participate in the making of international law were attaining their independence.

37. His delegation, which had taken an active part in drafting General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX), was glad to note that the various measures for co-ordinating the existing programmes of international law and providing direct assistance in that field were beginning to produce results. Special thanks were due to the Advisory Committee, to UNESCO and to UNITAR for their serious and imaginative approach to the task assigned them. Thanks were also due to the Government of Tanzania for its generous offer to provide facilities for the regional training and refresher course to be held in Africa in 1967, as well as to those Member States that had made voluntary contributions to the programme. Some of the developed countries with a long tradition in the teaching of international law, such as the United States, had also been generous in providing facilities. In his opinion, however, programmes for the teaching of international law should be carried out, whenever possible, on a multilateral basis through the United Nations' rather than on a bilateral basis between individual Governments. The objective should be genuine universality, and the rules of international law taught in the United Nations programmes should not reflect the beliefs of any one political, ideological or social system.

38. His delegation fully supported the draft resolution in document A/C.6/L.611/Rev.1 and hoped that its adoption would help to bring about a better knowledge and stricter observance of the rules of contemporary international law on the part of all States.

39. The CHAIRMAN announced that the general debate had now been concluded and suggested that the Committee should defer further consideration of the item until a reply had been received from UNESCO. If there were no objections, the Committee would take up agenda item 88 at its next meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.