



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 14th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. XIFRA (Spain)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 63: UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (A/34/31)

1. Dr. KWAPONG (Vice-Rector, United Nations University) expressed the regrets of the Rector, Dr. James Hester, for his inability to attend the meeting.
2. In his report to the General Assembly (A/34/31), the Council of the University had drawn attention to the substantial progress the University had made during the past year. Evidence of that progress was seen in the continuing expansion of activities, increasing interaction among the three main programmes and a welcome but still inadequate strengthening of its financial support through the Endowment Fund.
3. An area of expansion that had been particularly gratifying was the growth of the University's networks of collaborating scholars and institutions. The aim of those network operations was to reduce the isolation of scholars and scientists, particularly in the developing world, and to promote the growth of vigorous academic and scientific communities throughout the world.
4. Turning to the achievements of the individual programmes, he said that a recently published University report had contributed to the research done by the World Hunger Programme concerning the standards that had been used since the early 1970s to determine protein and energy needs in many developing countries. The report had stressed the importance of giving sufficient attention to the need for recovery and catch-up growth following the chronic infections that often accompanied undernourishment. It contained important guidelines for future co-operative research efforts by the University and other United Nations agencies, underlining the areas where research was most badly needed.
5. The World Hunger Programme currently had nine associated institutions throughout the world. Those institutions held together the networks organized to focus scholarly and scientific expertise on the problems of food and nutrition policy planning, post-harvest food losses and the nutritional requirements of developing countries. The Programme had recently awarded its 100th fellowship, and a total of 41 fellows had completed their training. They reported that their capacity to contribute to solving their countries' problems had been significantly increased, and two-thirds of them were already in positions that enabled them to influence their countries' food and nutrition policies.
6. The Human and Social Development Programme, which was broken down into two subprogrammes dealing with problems of development and technology for development, sought to act as a critical forum where different schools of thought, cultures and disciplines could interact in analysing the economic, social, political and cultural forces that affected the development process. Such a forum deepened and enriched

(Dr. Kwapong)

the dialogue on alternative approaches to development. In the past year, work on the four initial research projects and three new projects had continued. Activities had ranged from detailed village-level studies of traditional technology in eight Asian nations to a global analysis of development alternatives. Studies had also been carried out on the social and cultural consequences of the transfer of technology in Japan - a project that was already yielding valuable practical insights for development country planners. Eight thematic workshops and two regional symposia had been held in co-operation with international, regional and national academic bodies over the past year. More than 200 pre-publication research notes and papers had been presented and discussed by the more than 70 research units in the different networks.

7. The Programme on the Use and Management of Natural Resources had been established only in the past year and already had nine associated institutions and seven operating networks. It was founded upon the recognition that the energy crisis and environmental decline were two challenges that must be confronted jointly by the industrialized and developing worlds. It concentrated on expanding the understanding among the developing world's scientists of energy and resource use in their own countries. Six of its nine associated institutions had held scientific workshops during the past year, and the Programme itself had co-sponsored an important conference on energy alternatives held in January 1979 at the East-West Centre in Hawaii. Its fellowships were growing, and exploratory missions had been carried out to over 30 countries. Ten research and training units had been established, and nine more were in the planning stage.

8. All three main programmes of the United Nations University had sought to work closely with the appropriate United Nations agencies and other bodies, notably UNESCO, UNITAR, FAO, WHO, UNDP, UNEP and UNRISD, with the aim of complementing, not duplicating, the efforts of others working in similar fields.

9. One of the most significant developments of the past year had been the growing interaction among the programmes. The University had sought to encourage that interaction because it recognized that serious problems could be fully understood and solved only as intimately linked aspects of the human condition. The Council had stressed that philosophy in its report. Specific instances of interaction over the past year had included an assessment of the field of biomass conversion at a workshop of the World Hunger and Natural Resources programmes in Guatemala in November, an examination of the problem of identifying alternative goals, processes and indicators of food and nutrition policy by the World Hunger and Human and Social Development programmes at a workshop at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In March, research and training on solar food conservation systems for rural communities by the World Hunger and Natural Resources programmes, and research into resource systems and traditional technology by the Human and Social Development and Natural Resources programmes.

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(Dr. Kwabong)

10. The University's publications programme had grown considerably over the past year. Two new periodicals had been launched and widely circulated. The first four issues of the quarterly Food and Nutrition Bulletin had been well received, and ASSET (Abstracts of Selected Solar Energy Technology), which was distributed monthly, was currently received free of charge by scientists in the energy field in 68 developing countries. Furthermore, the University had issued 30 publications designed to inform scientists and scholars about its programmes. It had begun a Work in Progress supplement to its Newsletter which presented excerpts from papers, reports and other documents reflecting contributions from the world academic community to the University's work.

11. The Council had reflected carefully on the mandate in the University's Charter when devising the current programmes. The areas of work had been carefully selected in order to use the University's specific capabilities to implement principles that were of paramount concern to the international community and, therefore, to the United Nations. It was, moreover, necessary to draw upon the knowledge of experts on subjects of concern to the University in order to identify appropriate areas for useful work.

12. For each of the three programme areas, different kinds of urgent needs were perceived. Many problems in the area of human and social development were seen to require a fresh theoretical, conceptual and methodological approach, while those in the areas of world hunger and the use and management of natural resources seemed to require research on the application of science and technology and advanced multidisciplinary training organized through international networks. While there were differences in emphasis among the programmes, there were also strong similarities, as in such activities as organizing international networks of institutions and individuals for scholarly collaboration on specific global problems, multidisciplinary study of problems and their solutions, strengthening institutional and individual capacities for self-reliant development, research on development problems that was sensitive to human, social, cultural and ecological values - particularly the development problems of the rural poor, creation and transfer of technology within and among developing countries, appropriate transfer and transformation of technologies from industrialized to developing countries, and the broad dissemination of knowledge about development. Those similarities reflected widespread agreement among informed and concerned persons that at the present time an international academic institution using limited resources to help to solve pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare should focus a major part of its efforts on problems that prevented the poor at the village level in developing countries from achieving development and escaping poverty.

13. Because the University's work was closely linked to that of many other United Nations agencies, it was all the more imperative that its distinctive role

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within the United Nations family should be clearly defined. In his view, that role lay in a combination of the sponsorship, mandate, methods of operation and emphasis of the University. The University had a special opportunity to enhance its distinctiveness by combining the analysis of problems, dissemination of knowledge, training and effective action at the grassroots level. That approach would be increasingly emphasized.

14. Looking to the future, he said that it was particularly gratifying to note that the base of the University's Endowment Fund had been expanded over the past year. He referred specifically to large pledges made by the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany and Thailand. Seventeen other countries had also made annual pledges or contributions which had amounted to \$US 28 million for 1978-1979 as compared to \$US 16 million pledged and contributed the previous year. Financial stability was in sight, but he enthusiastically associated himself with the Council's opinion expressed in its report that a further strengthening of financial support was essential if the University was adequately to fulfil its objectives.

15. The time had come to consider a medium-term plan for future development, and a study was currently being made of the elements that should make it up. It would be discussed by the Council at its fourteenth session in December.

16. In its report for 1978, the Council had said that the University had developed to the stage where it was possible to assess its contributions in terms not only of aspiration but of performance. In his view, the University's performance had continued to demonstrate that it had become a valuable member of the United Nations family with an increasingly distinctive role.

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

17. Mr. LOHANI (Nepal) said that although the approach of a new decade should inspire enthusiasm, examination of recent surveys and reports on the world economic situation showed that inflation, slow economic growth and unemployment persisted in many developing countries. The growth rate of the GDP of developing countries had been only 4 per cent in 1978, far short of the target set in the Strategy for the Second Development Decade, and it was likely to decline still further in 1979. The transfer of 0.7 per cent of the GNP of developed countries as official development assistance, a key component of the Strategy for the Second Development Decade, had remained unfulfilled.

18. Never before had the international community been provided with such important and comprehensive declarations, decisions and programmes of action on such wide-ranging issues as food, population, environment, habitat, water, and science and technology for development. The sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly had been landmarks in spelling out the objectives of the new international economic order and in launching a programme of action for that purpose. It was to be hoped that serious negotiations between developed and developing countries on the means and policy measures necessary to realize the objectives of the new Order would bear fruit. Lack of progress in the North-South

(Mr. Lohani, Nepal)

dialogue, however, had led to frustration among developing countries. The problems facing them, such as high inflation, protectionist practices, external payment imbalances and growing indebtedness, were deeply rooted in the unjust and outmoded economic system. If the existing economic order was allowed to persist, the gap between developed and developing countries was bound to widen still further. It was for that reason that developing countries felt that a fundamental restructuring of the world economic system was essential to the healthy and balanced growth of the world economy.

19. His delegation strongly urged that the North-South dialogue should be revitalized, and it recalled in that connexion the recent declaration of the Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77. The United Nations was the only forum for such a dialogue, and his delegation hoped that the new round of global negotiations first called for at the Sixth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, if endorsed by the current session of the General Assembly, would lend momentum and new dimensions to it. The recent proposal by President López Portillo of Mexico for the adoption of a world energy plan merited careful consideration. His delegation firmly believed that progress in the North-South dialogue would have a beneficial effect on the preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade.

20. It had been rightly stressed that the new International Development Strategy should not repeat the mistakes of the two previous ones, and the General Assembly had stipulated that it should be formulated within the framework of the new international economic order and directed towards the achievement of the objectives of that order. Developing countries should have equitable, full and effective participation in the formulation and application of all decisions in the fields of development and international economic co-operation. The new Strategy should be able, on the basis of the clear guidelines laid down in General Assembly resolution 33/193, to define the role and commitments of all countries quantitatively and within a specific time-frame and to set a higher average growth rate for developing countries than had been set for the Second Development Decade. Furthermore, the new Strategy should take account of countries' varying stages of development and pay special attention to the least developed and land-locked developing countries. It was regrettable that, at its past three sessions, the Preparatory Committee had been unable to agree on a draft outline for the Strategy. His delegation called upon developed countries to demonstrate their political will through genuine commitments to the accelerated development of developing countries. It was clearly in their interest to promote economic growth in the developing countries. The least developed, land-locked, island and most seriously affected developing countries had been especially hard hit by the world economic crisis. Failure to increase the level of assistance to the least developed countries would severely limit their growth prospects. It was regrettable that, at the third session of the Committee of the Whole, agreement had not been reached on a resolution urging the developed countries to double, by 1981 at the latest, the amount of their official development assistance to the least developed countries.

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(Mr. Lohani, Nepal)

21. Referring to the report on the thirty-fifth session of ESCAP, he said that all the participating countries had strongly felt that new and vigorous efforts would be required if the relative and absolute incidence of poverty in the region was to be reduced, if not eliminated, in the 1980s.

22. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries constituted a vital force, in the context of the new Strategy, for restructuring the international economic order and achieving collective self-reliance. Declarations and programmes of action adopted at Manila, Mexico City, Buenos Aires and Arusha testified to the initiatives being taken by developing countries to accelerate the development and transformation of their economies through enhanced economic and technical co-operation. It was clear that collective self-reliance drew its sustenance from the intensification and strengthening of economic links and technical co-operation among developing countries. His delegation attached great importance to increased financial assistance as between developing countries and the channelling into other developing countries of an increasing part of the funds which such countries invested abroad. Collective self-reliance would not imply dissociation from traditional forms of co-operation, however. Developed countries and intergovernmental organizations, institutions and agencies should provide increased external assistance to supplement the resources needed for the implementation of technical and economic co-operation among developing countries.

23. His delegation supported the Yugoslav proposal that the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly should be convened in August 1980. Adequate preparations for that important session should be made without delay.

24. Mr. Babacar DIOP (Senegal) said that only self-reliance and economic independence could ensure peace in the world and create an international climate that would facilitate the full development of all countries and peoples. Unfortunately, however, the current world economic situation was characterized by runaway inflation and continued economic stagnation and the gap between rich and poor countries continued to grow. The economic crisis, which especially affected the developing countries, called for radical restructuring of North-South economic relations in conformity with the new world situation and the fundamental right of peoples to enjoy the fruits of their natural resources.

25. The continued imbalance in relations between developing and developed countries proved that the numerous promises made in recent years to restructure the international economic order on a more equitable and balanced basis had been empty. The developing countries, which made up over 70 per cent of the world's population, continued to exist on only 30 per cent of total world income. That situation could bring about a steady decrease in the world economic growth rate if changes were not made in time. The continued existence of economic stagnation combined with inflation during the year 1978 made such changes crucial to the speedy establishment of a new international economic order in accordance with the principles of the fundamental documents of the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

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26. While the world economy had steadily declined during the year 1978, it was the developing countries that had felt the consequences most severely. The average growth rate of their gross national product had been only 4 per cent in 1978 as opposed to 6 per cent for the period 1971-1975. The lack of economic growth, which was connected, *inter alia*, with stagnation in export earnings, and the continued inadequacy of long-term capital inflows, had placed those countries in a difficult situation with regard to their trade with developed countries. Some crucial development projects had been jeopardized, and the economic growth of the developing countries had been set back accordingly. Furthermore, adverse trends in international trade in 1978 had been reflected in a deterioration in the balance of payments of developing countries which could impede still further their economic growth in 1979. In 1978, moreover, the export earnings of developing countries had decreased as a result of protectionist measures that had been applied by the developed countries for a number of years. That growing tendency was a cause for concern to many developing countries, which rightly believed that their development was severely hampered by the proliferation and inflexibility of commercial trade barriers. It was possible that, under the pretext of defending themselves against what they wrongly considered new competition from the third world, the developed countries would engage in economic activities that put an end to the liberalization of trade relations which had supported their own rapid economic growth. Solutions to the problem of protectionism had to be found in the near future, for, if it persisted, it would jeopardize the development of international trade relations.

27. The question of the interdependence of economics, monetary problems and trade in relation to development also merited the Committee's attention during the present particularly acute phase of the world economic crisis. The financial resources made available to the developing countries in 1978 had been insufficient when measured against their balance-of-payments deficits. The flow of official development assistance represented only one half of the target figure of 0.7 per cent which had been set by the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. Furthermore, the external debt of the third world had increased from \$74 billion to \$244 billion between 1970 and 1977. A rapid solution in keeping with the interests of the third world was desirable.

28. The problem of commodities, and, in particular, that of stabilizing their prices, was also a matter of continuing concern to the developing countries. Senegal had always upheld the principle that equitable international economic solutions could be achieved only if the right of every country to dispose freely of its own natural resources was fully recognized. The agreement in principle on the establishment of a Common Fund was a step towards a genuine scheme for organizing world markets.

29. While the first four sessions of UNCTAD had raised great hopes among the developing countries, the results achieved at the fifth session had been neither sufficient nor commensurate with the essential needs of those countries. However, his delegation believed that the meeting at Manila had been an important step along the difficult road towards the establishment of a new international economic order.

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(Mr. Babacar Diop, Senegal)

30. Senegal continued to believe that, in order to overcome the present crisis, concrete measures had to be taken for the benefit of the third world, including a substantial acceleration of and increase in the transfer of resources to the developing countries in a reliable, regular and predictable manner and a reduction in protectionist measures by developed countries.
31. The developing countries had nevertheless made remarkable efforts towards self-sufficiency in recent years. They had sought to strengthen and co-ordinate their activities with a view to establishing genuine horizontal co-operation in all fields and thus enhancing their negotiating solidarity. However, if regional co-operation was to achieve its true dimension, the developing countries must be supported and encouraged in their efforts by the developed countries and by international organizations.
32. The world food situation was disturbing. The goal of 4 per cent annual growth in agricultural production in developing countries adopted at the World Food Conference must be attained at all costs. His country had been represented at the recent World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development at a very high level, attesting to the importance which it attached to that question.
33. Economically, 1978 had been a particularly difficult year for Senegal. As a result of the 1977 drought, income in the rural areas had decreased, domestic production had fallen and the external trade deficit had grown worse. Despite those unfavourable conditions and an increasingly difficult international environment, however, Senegal's economic and social development would continue in accordance with the long-term objectives that it had set. In according agriculture the first priority, Senegal had not chosen the easiest route, but it believed that that was the only way to guarantee socially equitable, geographically balanced development. In that connexion, Senegal welcomed the decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its previous session regarding the Sudano-Sahelian region and the measures taken for its benefit.
34. In conclusion, Senegal hoped that, in order to close the gap between the rich and poor countries, the appeal addressed to the developed countries by the representative of Canada at the 6th meeting of the Committee would be heeded.
35. Mr. DIEZ (Chile) said that there could be no doubt that the North-South dialogue had come to a standstill. If the international community accepted that fact, then its political will must be directed towards new efforts to reactivate the dialogue, which offered the only hope of solving the problems facing the developing world.
36. Three elements stood out in the work of the Second Committee at the current session. Firstly, the proposal in the report of the Committee of the Whole calling for the launching of a global round of negotiations on specific subjects, which had already received the support of several developed countries, could bear fruit only if all members of the international community participated in the negotiations in a constructive spirit. Those discussions would have to be properly prepared and would serve little purpose if they became merely another debating forum. They should not, however, be regarded as replacing existing channels of negotiation but rather as complementing them.

(Mr. Diez, Chile)

37. Secondly, the global negotiations could become a valuable tool for the implementation of the policies and programmes, both national and international, to be formulated by the new International Development Strategy. Positive results at the present session of the General Assembly would have a favourable impact on the work of the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy and could, in future discussions, help to overcome the conceptual and political differences separating the respective positions of the Group of 77 and the developed countries. To a large extent, the conceptual difficulties stemmed from the refusal of the developing countries to acknowledge the relationship that existed between their growth rates and those of the industrialized countries. Growth in the industrialized countries had the effect of increasing the demand for products from the developing countries.

38. On the other hand, the industrialized countries would have to accept the change in the relative prices of productive resources, adjusting their production patterns to the new structure of world market prices, and cease protecting activities which as a result of that change would no longer enjoy competitive advantages. Delay in making that adjustment would result in limiting income in the industrialized countries and would have both direct and indirect repercussions in the developing countries. Another basic prerequisite for progress in the work of the Preparatory Committee would be recognition by the industrialized countries of the fact that no government of a developing country could agree to be dictated to with regard to the principles governing the development process which it adopted for its own society.

39. The third element was the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1980. Those preparations were of vital importance both for the global negotiations and for the International Development Strategy for the next decade. It was therefore essential that the present session of the Assembly should set forth precise guidelines for the suitable preparation of the special session. His delegation believed that one of the central considerations should be to restrict the agenda to a certain number of important items in view of the limited time available.

40. His delegation was disturbed and disappointed at the negative reception which certain countries had accorded to the developing countries' protests against the harmful phenomenon of protectionism. The attempts by the industrialized countries to blame that threat to free trade on the world-wide recession of the mid-1970s, on the rise in oil prices or on the realignment of international prices as a result of monetary fluctuation only served to demonstrate how difficult it was to make adjustments in the industrialized economies. The rate of growth of real wages in those countries had exceeded productivity, and that in turn had reduced their ability to compete internationally in many areas of production.

41. His delegation was convinced that discussion of protectionism was timely in view of the fact that world inflation was emerging as the greatest threat to the international economy. It was a threat that resulted from stop-gap solutions

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(Mr. Diez, Chile)

adopted in the developed countries in an effort to protect industries that were no longer competitive. Those solutions were ultimately followed by expansionist monetary measures, and the latter gave rise to currency fluctuations which in turn affected world trade. Chile had decided to throw its doors open to world trade by establishing an average import tariff of 10 per cent and maintaining a realistic exchange rate.

42. In the spirit of continental solidarity, the Government of Chile enthusiastically supported the draft resolution which the Latin American Group had submitted in connexion with assistance for the reconstruction of Nicaragua. It also supported the proposals for assistance to the Dominican Republic and Dominica, which had been hurricane victims. Finally, his delegation endorsed the proposal by Costa Rica for the establishment of a University for Peace within the United Nations University.

43. His delegation wished to express its complete agreement with the observations made by the representative of Singapore at the 7th meeting of the Committee concerning the satisfactory growth rates achieved by a good many developing countries on the basis of a free-market economy and broad acceptance of foreign capital and technology.

44. Mr. BAUCHARD (France), attempting to envisage the state of the world in the year 2000, said that it would, first of all, be confronted with a substantial increase in population despite a certain tendency towards a decline in the birth-rate. That increase would be felt above all in the poorest countries, particularly in Africa, and would have many consequences: accelerated urbanization, a need to create large numbers of new jobs, an exacerbation of the food problem, and an increase in the number of people living in utter poverty.

45. Secondly, the world's natural resources would become increasingly scarce. The awareness that those resources were finite and must be carefully husbanded was a relatively recent development. The developed world had to change its consumption habits by adopting a more realistic growth plan than it had until recent years, a plan that would take greater account of the needs of other consuming countries.

46. Thirdly, the economic system created after the Second World War was becoming less and less workable. The entire world was confronted with a serious economic crisis which could be overcome only by making difficult adjustments. That meant that a new type of growth had to be established by reducing uncertainties and creating a new international economic order that was more stable and more equitable. Any development strategy must take those elements into account. It would be a serious mistake to return to the Strategy for the Second Decade. A strategy must be formulated which took into account not only today's realities but those of tomorrow as well.

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(Mr. Bauchard, France)

47. Despite those difficulties, the world had certain assets on which it could rely. For example, the economic interdependence to which the Yugoslav Head of State had recently drawn attention at the meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank appeared to be a favourable element. Despite protectionist pressures, the world was not divided into airtight compartments. Countries were increasingly interdependent regardless of their economic or social system or level of development.

48. Negotiations had taken place in many different forums during 1979, and care should be taken to avoid either unwarranted complacency or excessive pessimism. His delegation believed that there had been tangible results even though the ground gained must still be consolidated.

49. With regard to the question of financing the balance-of-payments deficit of developing countries, the recent meeting of the Fund and Bank had made some progress. France was in favour of flexible conditions of access to the resources of the Fund for the developing countries. The Fund had sufficient resources to triple the annual volume of its assistance and to play a central role in financing the developing countries' deficits.

50. In the field of industrial development, his delegation regretted that the dialogue begun at the fifth session of UNCTAD at Manila had not been continued at the meeting of the Committee of the Whole, which was the appropriate forum for the process of seeking common ground prior to the Third General Conference of UNIDO at New Delhi. The first discussions, while difficult, had seemed to suggest possibilities for agreement. France, which would go to New Delhi with an open mind, believed that the industrialization of the developing countries was an indispensable factor in world economic growth. It was aware of the need to incorporate that factor into its economic policy and, to that end, had already taken expensive measures both with respect to public financing and in the social field. France also believed that the industrialization of the third world should be brought about in a balanced manner and should affect all the developing countries, particularly the poorest ones.

51. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development had ended in a positive manner even if all problems had not been solved. His delegation was pleased to note that that fact seemed to have been recognized by the Group of 77. In that connexion, it believed that the intergovernmental committee which was to be established should have the function of providing guidance without interfering in the management of the relevant bodies. It also believed that the Director-General would have a crucial role to play in over-all co-ordination within the United Nations system and that existing services should be strengthened for the purpose of assisting him in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 32/202.

52. From the human, social and economic points of view, the problem of poverty was the most serious, the most unacceptable and the one requiring the most urgent solutions. The situation was especially tragic as it was precisely in the poorest countries that the rate of growth was the lowest. The fifth session of UNCTAD had taken an important initiative in adopting a programme for immediate action in deciding to convene a United Nations conference on the least developed countries.

(Mr. Bauchard, France)

The efforts of the developed countries should focus primarily on those countries. That was the policy of France, which increasingly gave official development aid to the least developed countries, primarily in the form of grants. France had also substantially increased its contributions to a number of multilateral aid agencies. It had agreed to the doubling of the resources of the World Bank and had supported the sixth replenishment of the resources of the International Development Association. It had decided to double its contribution to UNDP by 1981 and to increase it by over 50 per cent in 1979. UNDP assistance should be increasingly geared towards the least developed countries and France would support all decisions to that effect. Concerted efforts to help the poorest countries should also be made in the fields of trade, food aid, health and education. The new international development strategy should more broadly reflect the concerns of those countries than the previous strategy.

53. All countries were concerned with the energy question, and despite the apparent contradictory interests, there were areas of general agreement. Everyone recognized that energy had become a rare and exhaustible commodity and that the period ahead would be one of difficult transition pending the availability of new and essentially renewable energy sources. It was also recognized that all countries were dependent on energy; the developing countries were already at least as dependent on energy as the developed countries and the growth of energy consumption of the third world would eventually overtake that of the industrialized world. In addition, there was increasing awareness of the current waste of resources in the most developed countries.

54. It was generally agreed that urgent action was required. The developed countries had to adopt more stringent energy conservation measures. France had achieved a 10 per cent reduction in oil imports since 1973 and was seeking another substantial reduction in such imports in the coming years. At the same time, the producing countries had to realize that it was not in their interest to provoke brutal price fluctuations.

55. The development of conventional and new energy sources, particularly in the developing countries, was imperative. That would require considerable capital and sustained technical assistance. France supported the timely World Bank proposal to increase its petroleum loans to \$1.2 billion per annum by 1983. In the field of technical assistance, increased emphasis should be placed on energy programmes. At the bilateral level, France had developed programmes related to training, transfer of knowledge and technology, and technical assistance in the energy sector, with particular reference to new and renewable sources. At the multilateral level, UNDP should broaden the scope of its action for the benefit of the poorest countries. France attached great importance to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which should be prepared diligently and efficiently.

56. Mr. DARSA (Indonesia) said that on the eve of the 1980s, there had been no substantial progress towards the elimination of the existing inequities that had

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(Mr. Darsa, Indonesia)

served to perpetuate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries. The latter were still confronted with the chronic problems of underdevelopment and their economies were still fragile and highly vulnerable to external fluctuations. The problems besetting the world economy were of a structural nature and could be remedied only by structural change. The ad hoc measures taken to date by the international community had not been commensurate with the imperatives for structural change nor with the need for the accelerated development of the developing countries. The world economy continued to show symptoms of inherent structural malfunctioning, characterized by persistent inflations, sluggish growth and continuing disarray in the international monetary system. The resurgence of protectionism had further compounded those difficulties, with negative implications for the pattern of international trade and development.

57. The lack of real progress in the North-South negotiations was indicative of the dearth of political will by the majority of developed countries to engage in meaningful negotiations. The results of the fifth session of UNCTAD had also been far from satisfactory. The Conference had been unable to bridge the gap in perceptions between developed and developing countries on how to effect the structural changes in the world economy. Those unsatisfactory results confirmed fears regarding the response of the developed countries to the legitimate aspirations of the developing countries for the restructuring of international economic relations. There was an obvious contradiction in the existence of an international economic system that professed to support the development of the developing countries while imposing trade restrictions on their exports, especially their processed and semi-processed products. There had indeed been some positive gains in connexion with the Common Fund, individual commodities, in particular natural rubber, the comprehensive programme of action for the least developed countries, debt problems and the establishment of a mechanism to review protectionism and structural adjustments. Those gains were, however, limited in scope and nature.

58. The multilateral trade negotiations, aimed at securing additional benefits for the international trade of the developing countries through specific and differential treatment, had yielded only limited results in terms of securing tariff and non-tariff benefits for the developing countries. The latter had not been able to participate fully in all the negotiations and their interests had received only peripheral attention. His delegation noted with dismay that the preparation of the new international development strategy had been stalled. There was an evident unwillingness by some countries involved in the negotiations to accept commitments for the 1980s. There should be a complete formulation of the strategy at the special session of the General Assembly in 1980 and the targets agreed upon should be commensurate with the need to reduce the gap between the developed and the developing countries. The new strategy should also be the principal instrument for achieving the objectives of the new international economic order.

59. Although the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development had reached agreement on some important issues, in particular institutional and financial issues, it had failed to reach agreement on the

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transfer of technology and the role of the transnational corporations. The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, however, had given cause for some encouragement. As a food-deficient country with a rural population of 75 per cent, Indonesia placed the highest priority on food production and rural development. It was therefore gratifying to have a declaration and programme of action of such precise and specific terms adopted at the international level. His delegation hoped that the report of the World Conference would be endorsed by the General Assembly.

60. It was regrettable that, despite ardent efforts in the last two years to rationalize and enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations system, little progress had been made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 32/197 and 33/202.

61. The special session of the General Assembly in 1980, which would review the implementation of the new international economic order, constituted an important bench-mark in the North-South dialogue set in motion by the seventh special session of the General Assembly. At the current session, the General Assembly could make a positive contribution by providing a new impetus for the ongoing and forthcoming negotiations. In the light of the progress made in the various forums of the United Nations system in the establishment of the new international economic order, the special session should take appropriate action to further promote the development of the developing countries and international economic co-operation.

62. The Group of 77 had introduced an important proposal to launch a round of global and sustained negotiations on international co-operation for development at the special session of the General Assembly in 1980. That constituted an innovative and bold attempt to end the present stalemate and dispel the climate of uncertainty and disenchantment. The new approach should be action-oriented, address the main issues in an integrated manner and complement ongoing negotiations in other United Nations forums.

63. The tremendous potential embodied in the concept of collective self-reliance had to be exploited to the maximum extent possible at all levels. The various declarations and programmes of action adopted by the developing countries regarding economic co-operation among developing countries were a clear manifestation of their firm intention to implement the concept of collective self-reliance. Only through economic co-operation among developing countries would the asymmetric pattern of centre periphery relationships be reduced and genuine interdependence among developing and developed countries be achieved.

64. At the subregional level, Indonesia, together with Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand had been promoting economic co-operation within the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) for more than 10 years. ASEAN's co-operative relations with third countries, groups of countries and international organizations were also progressing. The dialogues which had taken place so far had led to a better understanding of the problems and aspirations of ASEAN, which should result in mutually beneficial undertakings not only for the countries concerned, but also for the world at large.

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65. Mr. NISHIDA (Japan) said that the economic, political and social climate of the North-South dialogue had changed and a new approach towards the dialogue was imperative if it were to be successful. The world economy had faced a number of serious problems in the 1970s and few people would take an optimistic view regarding world economic growth in the 1980s. Many pointed to the need for fundamental structural adjustments of national economies, including measures that would save energy in industrial production and in day-to-day life. Those adjustments would not come easily, but would require substantial sacrifices by all. Under those conditions, many developed and developing countries would discover that their policy options had become substantially limited.

66. The growth of developing countries in the last two decades had generally been favourable and significant social and economic progress had been achieved by many of them. At the same time, however, the serious economic difficulties confronting the poorer developing countries had to be recognized. In addition, the emergence of the more successful developing economies had created new and complex dimensions which cut across the traditional categories of problems of developing countries. That situation called for carefully planned and differentiated measures to solve those problems.

67. Strategies for economic and social development had evolved according to the experience of the past two decades and the perception and definition of the so-called problems of development had undergone significant transformations. In the social, political and economic context, the central problem was absolute poverty. The stable and steady expansion of the world economy was incompatible with persistent poverty. Within developing countries, the benefits of development should be widely distributed to ensure the participation of the entire population in the development process. A comprehensive approach encompassing a wide range of economic and social measures to be undertaken by both developing and developed countries was required.

68. While the new and complex dimensions of the North-South dialogue might add to its difficulties, everyone clearly recognized that the interdependence between domestic and world economies had deepened and that the economic prosperity of one country had to be sought within the framework of the stable expansion of the world economy. The dialogue must therefore be supported by all countries. Japan fully recognized the responsibility and role which its Government must assume in the world economy.

69. The North-South dialogue often followed a well-established pattern of frequent meetings and intensive negotiations on draft resolutions, without a full and common understanding of the problems in question. In order to allow enough time to prepare policy decisions based on a common understanding of the problems and priorities involved, the mode of the dialogue should be changed. In that connexion, he regretted that the deliberations on restructuring the economic and social sectors of the United Nations had not made much progress within the Economic and Social Council. If an effective and viable North-South dialogue were to be conducted, concrete progress in respect of such restructuring would have to be made.

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(Mr. Nishida, Japan)

70. His delegation had doubts as to the usefulness of the type of negotiations taking place in the North-South dialogue and felt that work in the 1980s must be of a more concrete nature if the changes which the world required were to be brought about. The dialogue must appeal not only to policy-makers, but also to the general public, which in many countries was the final decision-maker. The future progress of the North-South dialogue would be hindered rather than helped if it continued to be criticized for not producing positive achievements in the developing countries. Such criticism simply helped to undermine the prestige of the United Nations and might hamper efforts to mobilize public opinion for co-operation in solving the problems of development. Although assistance through multilateral or bilateral channels was complementary to efforts made at the national level, it would only be detrimental to the common undertakings in the North-South dialogue if the various achievements of international efforts resulting from deliberations in United Nations forums were ignored.

71. The new proposal on global negotiations was a very important proposal which might have a crucial bearing on the future of the North-South dialogue and must therefore be carefully examined in the over-all context of that dialogue. In the future dialogue, States must not continue to skirt around certain issues which in the past had been avoided for various reasons. While respecting the sovereignty of each nation and recognizing the practical limitations of discussions within United Nations forums, all Member States should be prepared to engage in the dialogue with a frank spirit and an open mind. Developed and developing countries should strive in joint undertakings to attain the objectives of the international development strategy. So far, the main focus of the strategy had been on the role and responsibility which developed countries should take, and due attention had not been paid to such basic issues as energy, population and absolute poverty. If it did not incorporate these issues, the strategy would lose its effectiveness at the very moment it was formulated and would soon become obsolete.

72. The substance of the North-South dialogue should reflect the concerns of every negotiating group, whether it comprised developed countries, developing countries, the poorer countries, producers or consumers. Every country had its own unique political, economic and social priorities and problems which were being gradually transformed. The aspirations and reasoning of the developing countries in establishing a new international economic order were well understood; but the interests of the public in each country which might delay acceptance of such a new order could not be neglected. To overcome such real difficulties within a single nation as well as among nations, the North-South dialogue should find a balance among the interests of various groups. Instead, however, of helping to maintain the status quo, the dialogue should be imaginative and innovative, offering new perceptions, alternative concepts and plans of action for the steady growth of the world economy.

73. Because it would have a major impact on the future of the world economy, the energy question must not be ignored in the North-South dialogue. Already various measures, such as the restriction of petroleum imports and the increased utilization of nuclear and other alternative sources of energy, had been agreed upon by the participants at the Tokyo economic summit. The Conference on New and Renewable

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Sources of Energy had a particularly important role to play in directing international efforts in the 1980s; it should seek realistic results which would immediately benefit the non-oil-producing developing countries and provide a new approach in adjusting to the energy situation in the future.

74. His delegation was happy to note the substantial and steady progress made in 1979 by the United Nations University in expanding its activities. Those activities could not be undertaken and strengthened without the continued financial support and co-operation of Member States. Recognizing that need, his Government had already made contributions totalling \$80 million since the establishment of the University and was prepared to contribute another \$10 million during the current Japanese fiscal year. It welcomed the financial contributions made by some Member States and urged other Member States to participate in that endeavour, in view of the current financial difficulties of the University.

75. His delegation had the greatest respect for the enthusiasm with which the President of Costa Rica had submitted a proposal for the establishment of a university for peace within the system of the United Nations University. However, a number of Member States and international institutions such as UNESCO, the United Nations University and UNITAR, had expressed doubts regarding the feasibility of the proposal, noting particularly the financial implications and the possible duplication of the objectives and activities of the proposed university with those of many other existing institutions. While the concept of the proposed university for peace was similar to the original concept of an international university with an actual campus, subsequent deliberations had led to the conclusion that the idea was not realistic and that it was preferable to settle upon the current configuration of the United Nations University as a decentralized network of affiliated institutions. Given that background, it would appear that the concept of a university for peace was impractical and difficult to realize. There could be no doubt that the proposed university would be extremely expensive and give rise to financial problems even greater than those faced with regard to the United Nations University. The relationship which the proposed university would bear to the United Nations University remained obscure.

76. The Council of the United Nations University had stated that since the idea of a university for peace was still in the first stage of its formulation, it would be premature for it to determine how and whether the United Nations University could include the proposed university within its system. At the present stage, his Government found it difficult to support the establishment of such a university, fully supported the opinion of the Council and hoped that the General Assembly would endorse that opinion.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.