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QUESTION OF THE ELDERLY AND THE AGED

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Nikolai N. KOMISSAROV (Byelorussian
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Question of the elderly and the aged: report of the Secretary-General" was included in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 33/52 of 14 December 1978.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
3. The Committee considered this item at its 56th, 58th and 59th meetings, held on 26 and 27 November. The views expressed by the representatives of Member States and specialized agencies on this item are contained in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/34/SR.56, 58 and 59).
4. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the problems of the elderly and the aged (E/CN.5/562).
5. The Assistant Director for the Social Development Branch introduced the item at the 56th meeting (see A/C.3/34/SR.56).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/34/L.46

6. At the 58th meeting, on 27 November, the representative of Malta introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/34/L.46) entitled "Question of the elderly and the aged", which was sponsored by Algeria, Austria, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, Singapore, the United States of America and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Guyana.

7. At the 59th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.46 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Question of the elderly and the aged

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 32/131 of 16 December 1977 on the question of the elderly and the aged,

Recalling its resolution 33/52 of 14 December 1978 in which it decided to convene a World Assembly on the Elderly in 1982,

Taking note with appreciation of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the problems of the elderly and the aged, 1/

Recognizing the increase in the number and proportion of the older section of the population in a growing number of countries and the serious economic and social implications of this phenomenon to societies in general and to the aging in particular,

1. Recommends to the Governments concerned, in formulating their national policies and programmes, to consider developing, as required and in accordance with their national priorities, policies and programmes for the aging, as well as measures aimed at ensuring their full participation in the World Assembly on the Elderly in 1982;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue and to strengthen, within the limits of existing resources, activities in this field in co-operation with the agencies concerned, particularly:

(a) To consider measures for strengthening the activities of the regional bodies concerned designed to increase awareness of and to collect basic data on the situation of the aging, which could serve as a basis of information for regional preparatory meetings leading to the World Assembly on the Elderly in 1982;

(b) To assist Governments, at their request and in accordance with their national priorities, in the planning and implementation of policies and programmes for the elderly and in the preparatory work leading to their active participation in the World Assembly on the Elderly;

(c) To collect basic data at the national and regional levels on the number and proportion of the aging and the consequent implications of this phenomenon on national planning;

1/ E/CN.5/562.

3. Requests the competent and concerned specialized agencies to continue to give attention to the major issues concerned with the aging and to co-ordinate their work with the United Nations, particularly in view of the need for well co-ordinated activities prior to, during and after the World Assembly on the Elderly;

4. Requests the concerned intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to join with the United Nations, in a well co-ordinated set of activities, to assist Governments, if they so wish, especially those of the developing countries, in formulating and implementing policies and programmes for the aging and in their preparatory activities for the World Assembly on the Elderly;

5. Requests United Nations funding agencies to continue and to strengthen their support of activities in the field of aging;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council in 1981, through the Commission for Social Development, a progress report on the action taken on the present resolution and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-sixth session an item entitled "The elderly and the aged".
