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*President:* Mr. S. Amjad ALI (Pakistan).

*Present:* The representatives of the following countries:

Argentina, Belgium, Canada, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Iran, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Observers from the following countries:

Lebanon, Netherlands.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies:

International Labour Organisation, World Health Organization.

**Social activities (*continued*): (a) Development and concentration of the efforts in the social field of the United Nations and the specialized agencies (E/2291, E/L.414); (d) Preliminary report on the world social situation (E/CN.5/267, E/2247, E/2247/Add.1, E/L.408, E/L.416) (*continued*)**

[Agenda items 11 (a) and (d) ]

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. ABDEL-GHANI (Egypt) joined in the expression of thanks to the Secretary-General for the report which he had prepared on the world social situation (E/CN.5/267) and to the specialized agencies for their collaboration with him in the production of such a comprehensive document. The Egyptian delegation was not doubting the care with which the report had been prepared, but felt it necessary to make a few general remarks and suggestions which might be helpful in further studies on social conditions in various regions of the world.

2. In the first place, the Egyptian delegation thought that the resolution adopted by the Social Commission at its eighth session (E/2247, paragraph 125), express-

ing the view that a document relating to international and governmental programmes of social development should be drawn up by the Secretariat two years after each report on the social situation had appeared, should be amended to provide that the additional document should be supplementary to the report on the world social situation and that both should be published simultaneously. That would enable the Council to obtain a comprehensive view of the world social situation, comprising the existing problems, on one hand, and the social developments effected, on the other.

3. The Egyptian delegation was aware of the reasons that had led the Secretary-General to confine the report to existing social conditions. But it gave a picture so gloomy and so pessimistic that it made social reform appear difficult, if not impossible. The Egyptian delegation therefore thought that it would have been better to enlarge the scope of the report to include a survey of the efforts of governments and of the social reforms initiated by them.

4. The report admirably described the social problems confronting Middle Eastern countries, but failed to mention, except occasionally in a few words, the great efforts made by the countries of that region, including Egypt, towards social reform. Yet, the social security programme which the Egyptian Government had started in 1949 was an outstanding reform, with far-reaching objectives. Another of the Egyptian Government's projects was that of rural social centres, which had been instituted in many villages and were effective in raising the living standards of the rural population.

5. It was not his intention to boast about the social reforms carried out by his Government. His object was to show that the survey of the world social situation would be more objective and more encouraging if the report were to mention the social reforms already instituted by governments as well as the problems awaiting solution. In that connexion, future reports should include suggestions submitted to the Social Commission and the

Council that would doubtless be helpful to governments in guiding their efforts.

6. To that end the Egyptian delegation had prepared an amendment to the joint draft resolution (E/L.408) which the representative of Egypt would submit to the Social Committee at the proper time.

7. The second observation of the Egyptian delegation concerned the need for dealing with social problems on a regional basis. It should be borne in mind that a region, in the social sense, did not mean a geographical region. Two neighbouring countries might be far apart from each other socially because the social structure of peoples depended on various ethnic, historical, cultural, linguistic, religious and spiritual factors. It was to be hoped that future reports would take that point into consideration. Incidentally, from the social standpoint the population of the Middle East was 105 million, not 106 million, as the report stated.

8. The Egyptian delegation had noted with satisfaction that the report emphasized the unity of the Arab and Moslem countries of the Middle East. Today, as in the past, those peoples formed a homogeneous society. Hence, assistance which the United Nations and the specialized agencies extended to the countries of the Middle East in the form of social seminars and cultural institutions should be devised for countries of similar social systems. For instance, it was not appropriate and even dangerous to attempt to teach the blind of a non-Arabic-speaking country to read and write Arabic by modern scientific methods. The success of United Nations social work in the Middle East might be jeopardized by any such attempts.

9. The third observation that the Egyptian delegation wished to make on the report was a minor one, but it might prove useful in the preparation of future reports. Moreover, the matter was mentioned in the Social Commission's report on its eighth session (E/2247), in paragraph 115, where it was stated that, since the Secretariat had not been authorized to carry out any original research, the data published in the report were necessarily based upon documents officially transmitted by governments to the United Nations or to the specialized agencies. Yet a footnote in chapter IX of the preliminary report on the world social situation (E/CN.5/267), stated that certain information had been taken from a certain work which the Egyptian Government had not officially transmitted and which it did not regard as a factual and impartial report on Egypt's economic and social situation.

10. The Egyptian delegation's observations did not detract from its appreciation of the value of the report. It hoped, however, that the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the specialized agencies, would be able to provide the Council with further studies on general world social conditions and on the particular situation in each region and country. It also hoped that future reports would include studies of other social factors, such as crime and delinquency, alcoholism and narcotics addiction, the impact of which on the social life of a community was particularly grave.

11. The Egyptian delegation was aware of the difficulties that the Secretariat had encountered in compiling the data contained in the report. It was also aware of

the vastness and complexity of any study of social problems throughout the world. No efforts should therefore be spared to facilitate the work of the Secretary-General and to enable him to fill in the gaps in the preliminary report through a complementary report on national and international social reforms, including in addition social programmes for improving the prevailing conditions.

12. Mr. SALAH-UD-DIN (Pakistan) said that the Secretary-General, his staff and the specialized agencies concerned deserved to be congratulated on such a remarkable document as the preliminary report on the world social situation. It was the first time that the social problems of the world were being presented in a single document, enabling the Council to engage in a comprehensive review of world-wide social conditions. The report was a landmark in the history of the United Nations because it demonstrated the need for collective action by all nations to combat disease, ignorance and poverty. He also wished to congratulate the delegation of Lebanon for having taken the initiative in sponsoring General Assembly resolution 280 (III), which had led to the preparation of the report.

13. The report was not the result of any particular investigation, but was based on the knowledge already available to the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The views of the less developed countries about their social conditions, as expressed by their representatives in United Nations meetings, had been consolidated and analysed. However, while suggesting improvements wherever possible, the report dealt mainly with existing world social conditions and he looked forward to a detailed discussion of governmental and international programmes to improve social conditions in a latter report. He did not intend to discuss every aspect of the preliminary report, but would confine himself to a few aspects which particularly concerned the less developed countries in South and South East Asia.

14. The report stated in the introduction to chapter XII, that the material poverty of the 600 million inhabitants of South and South East Asia contrasted with the non-material richness of their various cultures. That statement was incomplete. The report should have mentioned the reasons for the contrast. As the Council was aware, scientific knowledge had made rapid progress at the beginnings of the twentieth century. However, while the Western Powers had been developing that knowledge to their economic advantage, the countries of South and South East Asia had remained within the grip of colonialism, unable to shape their own economies. They had recently gained their independence, but they could not be expected to catch up overnight. Their governments were, however, doing everything they could to ameliorate social conditions as rapidly as possible.

15. In the introduction to the section on income and employment in chapter XII, the report stated that the general poverty of the peoples of South and South East Asia was of long standing and had coloured all social attitudes and customs. It added that the poverty could not be ascribed to any one cause, whether it be overpopulation, landlordism, colonialism, lack of capital investment, indebtedness, ill-health, illiteracy, caste systems or the beliefs and habits of the peoples. Elsewhere,

the report stated that the lack of capital investment, indebtedness, ill-health and illiteracy were forming, along with poverty, a vicious circle. Caste systems or the beliefs and habits of the people could not seriously be considered as causes of the general poverty.

16. Revolutionary agrarian reforms had been introduced or were in process of introduction in South and South East Asian countries and in Pakistan in particular. Landlordism, once encouraged by colonialism, could therefore no longer be considered one of the causes of poverty there. The report should have ascribed the general poverty to its two real causes: over-population and the inability of the countries concerned to plan their economies during the period of colonialism.

17. The report described the peasants of under-developed areas as the forgotten men of the twentieth century. That had been the position under colonial rule, but it was no longer so. In Pakistan, for example, the recently introduced land reforms had given the tenants not only security of tenure and hereditary rights to tenancy, but also 60 per cent of their produce. Real poverty was not to be found among the employed peasantry of Pakistan, but among the unemployed agricultural workers, many of whom unfortunately could not find any land in spite of all their efforts. It was therefore the insufficiency of land under cultivation that was the cause of the poverty of some peasants.

18. The United States representative had said (641st meeting) during the general debate that it was paradoxical but true that by comparison with the more developed countries the conditions of the people in the economically under-developed countries seemed in many respects worse than they had been 100 or even 50 years before. It was rather difficult to agree with that observation. The conditions in the under-developed countries had been just as hard 50 years before, but they had not then been fully known.

19. It was rightly pointed out in the report that simultaneously with the growth of the concept of international mutual aid, there had spread among the people of the under-developed countries an awareness that they, too, could attain the standards of living of the people of the highly developed countries. However, the report did not seem to give that fact all the emphasis it deserved. The flow of information about the social conditions in the highly developed countries had awakened the peoples of South and South East Asia, and when they compared their standard of living with that of the people of the other countries they were inclined to jump to baseless and irresponsible conclusions. The situation had been potentially very dangerous, and but for the influence of certain major political organizations in that region, it might have led to "glorious" but perhaps bloody revolutions.

20. It was a matter of satisfaction to note that the governments of South and South East Asian countries were doing their best, within the limits of their resources, to improve the social conditions of their peoples. He would not repeat the information his delegation had given the Council with regard to the results achieved by Pakistan in public health, education and general development in the course of the discussions of arid zones and the reports of the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. He would only say that his country was well on the path of progress, although it was fully aware that the path was long and arduous.

21. The countries of South and South East Asia duly appreciated the economic assistance they were receiving from the United Nations, the specialized agencies and certain highly developed countries. That assistance must, however, be adequate if the area was to be saved from chaos.

22. The problem of over-population in South and South East Asia was acute. In the circumstances prevailing, birth control could not be successfully advocated. Apart from the solution of the problem through the development of more and more resources in the countries concerned, the United Nations might take up the question of migration on a global basis. Any discrimination on racial or territorial grounds would be against the purposes and principles of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter. There were certainly areas in the world which were under-populated and in need of man-power.

23. The Pakistani delegation regretted to note that the report made no mention of the Kashmir question and its effect upon social and economic conditions in India and Pakistan. Nor did it emphasize sufficiently the effect upon social conditions of the large-scale movement of refugees between the two countries. To devote only one paragraph to a movement of refugees on a scale unprecedented in history, and to say that most of them had been satisfactorily settled, did not do justice to the realities of an important social problem.

24. He would state his views on the joint draft resolution (E/L.408), of which Pakistan was one of the sponsors, the Belgian amendment (E/L.413/Rev.1) and the USSR draft resolution (E/L.414) when the Social Committee took up the various proposals.

25. Mr. ARKADYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Economic and Social Council and the Social Commission had failed to perform the task with which they had been entrusted, respectively, by Article 55 of the United Nations Charter and resolution 2/10, which was adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its second session. They had spent their time studying problems of secondary importance and had neglected such vital questions as unemployment, sickness and old-age insurance, medical care for all, education, the work of women and children and the improvement of the social situation in the Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories.

26. His delegation had submitted concrete proposals to the Council on more than one occasion, but they had been rejected by the United States and the Western Powers. In the same way, it had required all his delegation's insistence to persuade the Social Commission to retain on the agenda of its eighth session the preliminary report on the world social situation drawn up by the United Nations Secretariat in compliance with the request made by the General Assembly at its sixth session.

27. The preliminary report clearly depicted the misery and lack of social progress in certain regions and the total inability of the under-developed countries to ensure their peoples adequate primary education or the most elementary medical care. It quite wrongly, however, adduced over-population as the reason for the critical situation in the world, thus following a tendency which merely reflected the neo-Malthusian theories in favour in the United States and Western Europe. Such theories were anti-social and their only purpose was to divert attention from the real causes of the deplorable social situation in the capitalist world. It was by such neo-Malthusian theories that American, English and French monopolists sought to justify the truly catastrophic situation in Asia, Africa and the Middle and Far East for which the trusts were responsible. That situation had been created by the war preparations which monopolists had inspired in a move to obtain ever more gigantic profits.

28. While ignoring the real causes of the world social situation, the report failed to stress the effects of the militarization of their economies on which certain Powers had embarked—increased taxes, inflation and reduced State expenditure on peaceful development. There was evidence of these effects in certain statements made at the recent United States Republican Convention by Mr. Herbert Hoover and General MacArthur, who had not failed to emphasize the harmful consequences of over-taxation and reduced purchasing power in the United States of America.

29. The preliminary report on the world social situation had not mentioned the facts to which he had just referred; it had been content to note the adverse influence of the Second World War on the world social situation. The gap between the situation in the under-developed countries and in the highly industrialized countries had continued to increase and the standard of living of the peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories was still below that of the peoples of the metropolitan territories. That state of affairs was tragically illustrated by the fact that the life expectancy in the under-developed countries was thirty years compared with sixty-three in the most economically developed countries. Furthermore, while the monopolies had drawn scandalously large profits from the exploitation of the colonial and under-developed countries during the Second World War, the situation had deteriorated still further in post-war years and that had led to still lower standards of living in the under-developed countries.

30. For example, the housing situation in the under-developed countries was tragic. The preliminary report even recognized that workers' slums were increasing in number everywhere and that housing was needed for 150 million families in the under-developed countries.

31. Unemployment was rampant in most of the capitalist countries. United States statistics indicated that in March 1952 there were more than 13 million persons partly or totally unemployed in the United States. The rate of unemployment was also very high in the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, the German Federal Republic and Japan. The situation was still worse in the under-developed countries. Generally speaking, the assistance given to the unemployed was quite inadequate and, in many cases, it was non-existent.

When unemployment benefits were paid, they were generally below the subsistence minimum. Figures of unemployment benefit in the states of Georgia, Kentucky and New Jersey were an example; the allowances varied, from state to state, between \$US4 and \$US26 a week and they were payable only for a limited time. In the Non-Self-Governing Territories and colonies there was no unemployment benefit and on the whole the unemployed were reduced to begging and poverty.

32. According to the preliminary report, old-age insurance was compulsory in only thirty countries. In the United States only 22 per cent of the population over 65 received grants under old-age insurance schemes and it had been claimed that in practice no one could receive sickness insurance. For example, in the United States fewer than 4 million people were covered by health insurance; 75 million Americans had policies with private companies and the rest of the population had absolutely no protection.

33. The report noted that the gap between advanced knowledge of modern medicine and its application was still wide. While the United States Government had set aside well over \$US190,000 million for military preparations, the credits allocated to medical welfare in 1951 represented only 1 per cent of the total federal budget.

34. The educational situation was just as bad in the United States of America. Only 1 per cent of the budget in 1951 had been set aside for that form of social activity, on the principle that everything must be sacrificed to the requirements of national defence and militarization.

35. In a recent statement on the preliminary report on the world social situation the United States representative had criticized the social situation in the USSR. His criticism had been quite unjustified and his intention could only have been by slanderous insinuations to divert the Council's attention from the situation in the United States, where a few monopolies exploited tens of millions of human beings. He had, however, been unable to convince the Council of the advantages of what he called a free system. The innumerable attacks on human rights and individual freedom embodied in the discriminatory legislation of the United States were common knowledge. There were examples of racial discrimination in the legislation of states such as Texas, Virginia and South Carolina, and the Indians, the original inhabitants of America, had had their land taken from them and had then been herded like animals into reservations where they vegetated and where the death-rate was nine times higher than in the rest of the United States. Not only had they been deprived of their land by the white pioneers, but they had been relegated to poor and useless regions.

36. In his statement the United States representative had also claimed that there were privileged classes in the USSR who received favourable tax treatment. He had tried to draw a picture of the Soviet Union as a paradise for millionaires. That allegation was false. The sliding scale of taxation applied in the USSR was more severe on the higher income groups and not less severe, as the United States representative had tried to imply. There were no particularly privileged classes in the USSR. The workers there were manual workers, peas-

ants and intellectuals. All offices, even the most important, were open to any citizen capable of filling them and public education was available to all. Primary education was free and scholarships brought the highest levels of education within the reach of all who wanted it. It was impossible therefore to speak of a privileged class or to claim, as the United States representative had done, that the members of the ruling classes in the Soviet Union accumulated material wealth. All land in the USSR belonged to the people and could not be privately owned. There were no millionaires in the Soviet Union.

37. In the United States the position was quite the reverse; wealth was concentrated in the hands of a very small privileged class. Statistics clearly showed that 11,500 people had more than a million dollars, 950 people were multi-millionaires and 60 families were billionaires, while the mass of the people lived in a state of insecurity or even misery. That, no doubt, was one reason for the high rate of criminality in the United States. Delinquency was increasing at a deplorable rate and the spacious modern prisons of which the United States representative had been so proud would certainly soon be full.

38. While the United States Government could boast of capacious prisons, it could not rightly claim that sufficient efforts had been made to house the population. The problem of housing was extremely urgent in the United States. Thus, in Baltimore, where the coloured population was 20 per cent of the total, the Negroes occupied only 2 per cent of the housing area. In Chicago, the density of the population was 90,000 to the square mile. An article in the magazine *Architectural Forum* had observed that, if the housing conditions in the Harlem district were made general, the population of the whole of the United States could be housed in half the area of New York. Those were facts which contradicted the attractive picture Mr. Kotschnig had drawn of the housing situation in the United States.

39. Similarly, the United States representative had quoted figures to compare the purchasing power of the workers in the Soviet Union with that of the workers in Western Europe or the United States. He had said that in Moscow the Soviet worker must work an hour to earn the price of a pound of potatoes. A pound of potatoes cost 40 kopecks. If the United States representative's information was correct, that would mean that the Soviet worker earned 40 kopecks an hour, or 83 roubles a month. Yet in a Press release given by the United States representative it was stated that the average wage of a Moscow worker was 600 roubles a month. Even if that figure—which, incidentally, was incorrect—were accepted, it would mean that the Moscow worker must work only eight minutes to buy a pound of potatoes. There was a flagrant contradiction in the United States representative's figures and the value of his information could be judged from that example. When he made inaccurate statements about the peoples' democracies and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, he was basing his assertions on an alleged documentation the only feature of which was that it was anti-Soviet.

40. Similarly, when he attempted to convince people that his country's fiscal legislation tended to equalize

the incomes of multi-millionaires and of workers, he was merely attempting to conceal the real situation. Actually, the concentration of business in the hands of the controllers of monopolies was increasing from year to year. Thus, in 1917, there had been in the United States six large monopolies with a total capital of \$US10,000 million. In 1951, fifty-eight monopolies had a total capital of \$US147,700 million. Between May 1951 and May 1952, the income from salaries and wages had amounted to \$US8,000 million, whereas in May 1952 alone the income from capital had increased by \$US300 million and had been equivalent to an annual sum of \$US42,000 million. That increase was sufficient proof of the existence of a monstrous concentration of business to the profit of the monopolies. It could not therefore be reasonably claimed that the income of the monopolies was declining while the wealth of the working people was increasing. The opposite was true: the income of shareholders in the large companies had increased, while the workers' wages had declined.

41. The United States representative had also claimed that the success which the Soviet Union had had in developing its economy was due to its efforts to assimilate the discoveries of Western scientists. That statement amounted to denying the existence of arts and technology in the Soviet Union, and the discoveries of the scientists of the USSR. It was a complete contradiction of the truth. For example the chemist Mendeleev had discovered the foundations of modern chemistry and had achieved fame through his work on the structure of the atom. There was also the work of the scientist Popov in radio-telephony. Those who intended to consign the USSR's contribution to science to oblivion were obliged to pass over in silence the great names of the chemist Zinin, the geometer Lobachevsky, the biologist Mechnikov, the mathematician Vinogradov, author of a theory of numbers, and the work of such famous technologists as Zukovsky, Chaplygin, Mozhaisky, Tsialkovsky and many other scientists.

42. To ignore Soviet science was to ignore the splendid achievements of technology exemplified by the installations at Magnitogorsk and Kuznetz, and the work done by hundreds of laboratories or institutes as well as the work of millions of engineers and workers. His country was building steam turbines with a power of 150,000 kilowatts; in 1951 models of 500 new types of agricultural machines had been submitted. The successes achieved under the various five-year plans could not be minimized. The USSR had distinguished itself by the construction of gigantic canals and it had built the largest hydro-electric power stations in the world.

43. Similarly, attention must be drawn to the literary, musical and theatrical achievements of the Russian people. It was therefore useless for the United States representative to attempt to deny the Russian people's important contribution to world knowledge. His attitude was, however, in accordance with the current tendency of certain American circles to attribute to American citizens the discoveries made by Russian, French or English scientists. There was a work entitled *A Chronological History of Electrical Development*, which attributed to Americans all the discoveries in connexion with the use of electric power. Among other things, it did not forget to mention the invention of the electric

chair, which had unfortunately become an article for export, since the reactionary Greek Government was using it to execute the members of the opposition.

44. As compared with the social situation in the United States, the social situation in the peoples' democracies was improving, thanks to an atmosphere of peace and collaboration. The unemployed had been absorbed and intellectual culture was progressing rapidly. An example was the progress made by China since its liberation by the forces of the people. In the former China 90 per cent of the population had been illiterate. Immediately after the establishment of the new people's democratic régime, a cultural revolution had been undertaken and was being successfully conducted. Thus 38,500,000 persons were receiving primary education, and 600 institutes of higher education had been opened and were admitting workers and peasants.

45. Similarly, in all the peoples' democracies, enormous progress had been achieved in medical matters, and social insurance services had been established and were functioning satisfactorily. Sanatoria, crèches and kindergartens had grown more numerous.

46. For its part, the Government of the USSR had systematically raised the material and cultural level of the people. The USSR Constitution proclaimed and guaranteed the rights of the citizen, and there was no discrimination. Women had complete equality of rights with men and there was no discrimination on grounds of race or nationality. All the citizens of the Soviet Union were on a footing of equality in relation to each other. That equality was displayed particularly in education, for instruction was given in more than a hundred languages. In addition, 176 million text-books were printed in sixty-two languages.

47. Unemployment was absolutely unknown in the Soviet Union and the number of persons employed was constantly increasing. Furthermore, thanks to the application of a policy of systematic reduction of the prices of consumer goods, the real wages of the workers were increasing steadily and the value of the rouble was being strengthened.

48. The benefits of social insurance had been extended to all workers without exception, whatever their functions.

49. In that connexion, it was to be observed that the workers did not have to pay social insurance contributions themselves. The contributions were paid by the State, and the credits allocated for the purpose had increased continuously since the first five-year plan. The sum in question had been 10,400 million roubles under the first five-year plan, 32,500 million roubles under the second and 35,000 million roubles under the third. The first five-year plan to be adopted after the Second World War had provided credit for social insurance amounting to 80,000 million roubles.

50. The USSR Government had established and was continuing to establish sanatoria, rest homes for workers, tourist camps, schools and crèches for children. Every year a sum of 700 million roubles was appropriated for sanatoria and rest homes, which received on the average a total of 2,800,000 workers or employees.

51. Such were the achievements of the USSR in the matter of the protection of labour.

52. Enormous strides had been made by the Government and people of the USSR in housing workers: 2,700,000 houses had been erected in rural districts and great strides had been made in industrial areas. For example, in the Don Basin—an area formerly exploited by foreign companies which had not been concerned with the welfare of the miners, who were living in deplorable conditions—all the existing dwellings had had to be destroyed and replaced by modern buildings. Thus, real towns with every modern convenience had sprung up. Over fifty such new towns had been built. The same had been accomplished throughout the Soviet Union, in the Urals, the Kazak SSR and the Far East.

53. Moreover, workers' housing was made available to the population with no obligation on the tenant's part to sign a lease or undertake any liability whatsoever. That situation could be compared with the prevailing practice in the United States, where the people had to build their own houses at great cost in order to obtain accommodation, often assuming crippling mortgages in order to do so. Furthermore, the preliminary report on the world social situation had acknowledged that rents in the USSR were, comparatively speaking, the lowest.

54. In regard to public education, the USSR Government had concentrated on raising the population's intellectual level. New specialized personnel had been appointed to universities for the higher branches of teaching. Since the end of the Second World War about 150 new universities had been opened, in particular in Kishinev, Stalingrad and Uzhgorod.

55. Specialized institutes had been opened in some of the larger cities such as Moscow, Stalingrad, Tomsk, Krasnoyarsk and Taganrog.

56. Sixty million roubles had been set aside in the 1952 budget for public education.

57. Medical care was free and a network of hospitals, maternity homes, dispensers and sanatoria was being gradually completed. One hundred and twenty-four thousand million roubles had been set aside for medical services for workers.

58. Such results were obviously only possible in a country for which peace was the first consideration. That was why the USSR Government considered war propaganda a crime against humanity and the armaments race a criminal policy which could only result in a continuous decline in standards of living.

59. That was why the USSR delegation felt that the Economic and Social Council, which was obliged under General Assembly resolution 535 (VI) to take the necessary action to ensure that efforts and resources were effectively concentrated in order to solve economic and social problems, should recommend the United Nations and its specialized agencies to consider suitable measures to remedy unemployment, to extend social insurance, to increase educational possibilities without discrimination and to improve the health situation in non-self-governing and colonial territories.

60. His delegation had submitted a draft resolution (E/L.414) to that effect which was a step towards the

solution of all those problems. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted.

61. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) said that his Government was constantly trying to extend its achievements in the social sphere. Indeed, his country had been described as the "social laboratory of Latin America". That was why his delegation attached great importance to the preliminary report on the world social situation and to the conclusions contained therein. In compiling the report, at the General Assembly's request, the Secretariat had accomplished a remarkable task: it had not hesitated to describe the sometimes deplorable social conditions in certain countries. Consideration of the question by the Council would serve a most useful purpose. The representative of France, in particular, had placed the problem on a high level, stressing its humanitarian aspects. The Council was fortunate in having Lord Selkirk and Sir Gladwyn Jebb participate in its debates.

62. In order to conform with the Charter, the economic situation should be considered in the light of the social situation. The Charter had called on all the peoples to join in a new war, or more correctly in a crusade, to free mankind from poverty and need and to enable it to attain a decent standard of living.

63. The authors of the report had divided the various countries into geographical groups. Such a division might lead to certain misunderstandings: geography and mankind should not be confounded. The peoples of the world could on the other hand be divided into ethnical or religious groups; they could also be grouped according to their historical affinities or social characteristics.

64. Some of the expressions used in the report should be more clearly defined. For example, the expression "living conditions" was perfectly clear, even if it was not used in the strictly technical sense. He recalled in that connexion Abraham Lincoln's definition of the word "justice", which appealed to the emotions although not used in the academic sense.

65. Referring to some of the data in the report, particularly in regard to infant mortality, nutrition and illiteracy, he wished to point out that the figures on infant mortality related to children under one year of age, whereas in other studies infants were considered to be children under two years of age, while some United Nations reports covered the growth of children up to the age of fifteen. The last method was more realistic.

66. Infant mortality was higher among the poor than the well-to-do. That was an inexorable law against which his country had been ceaselessly trying to fight. His country had never ignored the difficulty of certain problems which it was trying to solve in a humanitarian manner. Under its democratic system everyone was free to contribute to their solution.

67. Figures showed that the rate of infant mortality varied from 150 to 199 per thousand in Europe (in the

case of some countries, such as Sweden, 20 per thousand), reaching 200 per thousand in Latin America and 250 per thousand in Asia. In Uruguay the rate was from 40 to 45 per thousand. Statistics did not, however, give a true idea of the situation. In particular, the report omitted to mention stillbirths. It should also be remembered that the period of greatest difficulty in adaptation occurred during the first few days of life. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund was not satisfied with quoting statistics: it took into account physical and mental injuries suffered by children during and after the Second World War.

68. The mothers' state of health, upon which the war had doubtless had an injurious effect, should also be taken into consideration. A passage in the section on trends of infant mortality rates, in chapter II of the report (E/CN.5/267) stated that interruptions of the downward trend of infant mortality in particular countries might be attributed to the fact that those countries, as belligerents, had been exposed to hostilities and food shortages.

69. It was a regrettable fact that the authors of the report had had to devote an entire chapter to child labour. The working conditions of children in some countries were similar to those which had prevailed in Europe at the time of the industrial revolution. That was an unbelievable state of affairs. The Council should call on governments to take the necessary steps to abolish a practice which was a disgrace in modern times.

70. The technical assistance programme and the "Point Four" programme were doubtless of the utmost value. President Truman had done well in drawing his country's attention to the needs of the less fortunate peoples. Uruguay was not a producer of raw materials and had no great natural resources; it derived its income from agriculture and cattle-breeding and the products from its newly-created industries. Perhaps its industrial progress might have been more rapid had it permitted the employment of children in factories. Uruguay, however, was anxious to be a true democracy and had guaranteed its people more than the simple human rights.

71. As early as 1907 and 1911 his Government had drawn up laws providing for an eight-hour working day. It had thus been preparing the way for social progress. It had also forbidden the employment of children before a specified age. Under existing laws a worker's minimum wage had to be sufficient to provide him with a standard of living commensurate with his material and cultural needs. Finally, illiteracy had almost been stamped out: elementary, secondary and higher education were free and the State offered many scholarships.

72. No matter what the social progress of a country, however, its government's task was never completed because a constant improvement in the social situation was one of the basic conditions of democracy.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.