

not a member of the United Nations, was an associate member of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) and which had enquired about the possibility of receiving technical assistance under resolution 200 (III). The question had been discussed during the current session of ECAFE, and members had expressed dissatisfaction that, since technical assistance was limited under resolution 200 (III) to Members of the United Nations, Ceylon was not therefore eligible for it.

20. His Government believed that the Assembly should take steps to ensure the possibility of any self-governing country, which participated in the work of a regional commission or was a member of a specialized agency, receiving technical assistance under resolution 200 (III). For that reason, to amend the terms of resolution 200 (III), he submitted a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.30).

21. Mr. HAKIM (Lebanon) said that he fully sympathized with the aims of the draft resolution submitted by the Philippines representative, but

thought it was out of order as all discussion on General Assembly resolution 200 (III) had been concluded under item 1 of the Committee's agenda. Moreover, States which were not members of the United Nations and did not contribute to the budget of the Organization could not be considered eligible to receive assistance under resolution 200 (III). They would, however, be able to receive assistance under the expanded technical assistance programme if they belonged to any of the agencies which took part in that programme.

22. The CHAIRMAN said that he would rule on the point of order raised by the representative of Lebanon when the Philippine draft resolution had been circulated in writing.

23. After some discussion about the advisability of closing the general debate on chapter II B, IBRAHIM Pasha (Syria) proposed the adjournment of the meeting.

The proposal for adjournment was adopted.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Wednesday, 9 November 1949, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Hernán SANTA CRUZ (Chile).

Report of the Economic and Social Council (A/972): chapter II B (concluded)

1. The CHAIRMAN recalled that several delegates had expressed a wish to hear the views of Mr. Thorn, President of the Economic and Social Council. He paid a tribute to Mr. Thorn's able work in the Council during the past year which had been the most successful in the Council's history.

2. Mr. THORN (New Zealand) thanked the members of the Committee for their tributes. It was a great honour not only to have been President of the Council, but also to have worked on it during five sessions as the representative of New Zealand. He had seen the Council develop into a friendly, compact and businesslike organization that had learnt much from experience. He was confident that with the passage of time it would prove equal to assuming the part of leadership in economic and social progress and to formulating policies which would ultimately remove injustice, abolish poverty and elevate mankind.

3. Members of the Committee who had attended the ninth session of the Council would agree with him that its achievement was among the best ever recorded in the life of the United Nations not only from the point of view of the particular subjects dealt with but also on account of the attitude of the Governments represented. Full co-operation had been offered by all members of the Council in the solution of the problems with which it was dealing. There had been many disagreements but they had not always resulted in irreconcilable positions. He recalled the remark¹

of the representative of the Soviet Union on the closing day of the session. Mr. Arutiunian had said that it was true that there had been many disagreements but if, as his delegation firmly believed, they were disagreements not between enemies but among friends, they could not fail to be of benefit to the Council's work. The Council's work had certainly benefited from the expression of those differences of opinion, so much so that the conclusions it had reached had been generally acceptable to the Committee.

4. The best illustration was the resolution 222 A (IX) relating to the expanded programme of technical assistance which the Committee had already considered. The Committee had noted how precisely, clearly and adequately the problem had been handled and the thorough consideration that the Council had given to the formulation of the programme. The Committee knew that the conclusions reached did not embody the initial proposals of any one delegation, but that they were a fusion of ideas which every delegation had finally been prepared to support. The fact that the Committee had unanimously adopted (98th meeting) the recommendations on the expanded programme of technical assistance was not only a tribute to the co-operative attitude of the fifty-nine Governments represented on the Committee, but was also a compliment to the Economic and Social Council. Indeed, it was to a large extent the good work of the Council that had made unanimity on the Committee possible. General agreement among Council representatives on that highly important matter had been the outstanding feature of the Council's ninth session. It was that willingness to seek agreement, which must always be cultivated, which would make the United Nations an instrument of peace.

5. At earlier sessions of the Council he had deplored the acrimonious exchange of views and

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fourth Year, Ninth Session, 343rd meeting.*

the great expenditure of time on merely political discussion. He would not say that political discussions should be absolutely banned from sessions of the Council. Economic and social problems were often closely intermingled with political considerations and their complete separation was impossible; there was, however, a wide difference between an approach to those problems based on differing political ideas and one based on the hope of achieving a merely propagandist effect. One of the ways in which the United Nations achieved its purposes was by a frank exchange of views in public; that was valuable. The ventilation of different political viewpoints and their discussion over as wide a field as possible might be very helpful, but no one could wish to conduct the affairs of the United Nations merely with the aim of publicity or with an eye to newspaper head-lines. At the ninth session of the Council debates had not been carried out in that spirit. Representatives on both sides had cooperated on tasks of a purely economic and social character and that was one of the main reasons why the session had been so successful. He hoped that meetings of the Council would increasingly reflect the general feeling that the improvement of living standards and the promotion of greater freedom and well-being for all peoples were among the most effective means by which the United Nations could establish peace.

6. With regard to chapter II B of the Council's report (A/972), he wished to stress particularly the need for greater concentration on improvement of the methods by which decisions and policy were carried out. Owing to the pressure of other questions, the Council had not hitherto been able to deal adequately with that problem. A great deal of the Council's time had been taken up by work on the expanded programme of technical assistance; that had meant that other subjects could not receive the attention they had deserved. One of the Council's difficulties was that its agenda had always been too long. Perhaps that was inevitable in the Council's early years, when it was faced with multitudes of economic and social problems in every part of the world. As it formulated methods of handling some of those problems, however, it would be more free to occupy itself with detailed work. Work had been completed on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the expanded programme of technical assistance and several conventions which had taken time. The Council should be in a position to examine and appraise the work of its Commissions and of the specialized agencies more closely.

7. Although it had spent as much time as it could on the work of the specialized agencies, the Council had not devoted a session to reviewing their work in full perspective. It had made some progress in avoiding overlapping and in co-ordinating certain functions, but even at the ninth session the question had arisen as to whether a number of specialized agencies in the economic field adequately dealt with the international problems the Council encountered. For example, was the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Bank) adequate in the field of financial development? He was not saying that it was not adequate, but merely mentioning the fact that the question had been raised. The conclusions so far reached would not generally satisfy delega-

tions that the Bank was the fruitful agency they all hoped it would be. Discussion in the Committee had raised the question whether international agencies could in fact function in such a way as to promote full employment as far as it could be promoted at international levels.

8. The Council had still to devote itself to an examination of the problems raised by its own Commissions. Most people would agree that, on the social side, such Commissions as the Human Rights Commission, the Narcotics Commission and the Social Commission had done their work very creditably. They would not, however, be so sure about the economic Commissions except at the technical level. The Statistical Commission and the Transport Commission were both doing good work within their specialized fields, but the Economic and Employment Commission, of which so much had been expected, had not fulfilled those expectations. The Economic and Social Council was well aware of the underlying problem. At its ninth session it had discussed a proposal to reorganize the whole work of the Economic and Employment Commission and its Sub-Commissions and the subject would come up at the eleventh¹ session. He did not wish to suggest that the work being done in the economic field by the Commission should be decreased; perhaps it should be increased. The technique adopted by the Council in relation to full employment might be followed further; he was referring to the establishment of the Committee of Experts, which was meeting to consider that problem.

9. There was always a danger of taking too hasty action when considering the reorganization of Commissions. The Council was still very young; its Commissions had scarcely embarked on their work. It might well kill the plant to pull it up and inspect the roots to see whether it was growing well. Nevertheless, he felt that the Council could well devote itself specifically to a close examination of its economic Commissions. That would remove any doubt that the performance of the Commissions was not as satisfactory as it might be.

10. An examination of the regional economic Commissions would, of course, be included. The New Zealand delegation was not quite convinced that the regional Commissions could work without duplication of effort and expense while the functional Commissions were in existence. The problem had not been solved and he hoped that the Council would discuss it in 1950. He did not wish to suggest that the regional Commissions had not done much to justify themselves, but he felt that a great deal of attention must still be paid to the integration of their functions with those of the Commissions, and that there should also be a close examination of the functions of the secretariats of the regional economic Commissions in relation to the Secretariat at headquarters.

11. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) was examining its own organizational arrangements to see whether they were the right kind for a body of a regional nature. He hoped that that examination would be fruitful. His delegation had been impressed with the work of the ECE and had been very pleased, at the Council's ninth session, to approve the establishment of a

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fourth Year, Ninth Session, 337th meeting.*

committee on development of trade and of a committee on agricultural problems within the framework of the Commission (resolution 232 (IX)). The problem of trade between eastern and western Europe was one of the keys to the solution of the economic difficulties not only of Europe, but of the world.

12. The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) had begun its tremendous task in a businesslike manner that had favourably impressed all who had considered it. The surveys of the economies of that great continent should provide a basis for fruitful policy in the near future.

13. The situation of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), of which New Zealand was a member, was, however, a matter for distress. It was faced by serious and gigantic problems in conditions of tragic instability; it had therefore been unable to deal with those problems except in a preliminary and very marginal way. There were hundreds of millions of people in the Far East who had not enough to eat and who suffered from what were possibly the lowest standards of living in the world. Technical development was painfully limited and it was therefore most unfortunate that ECAFE had not the means to do more to solve the immense problems that afflicted the area with which it was concerned. It had been noted in the Economic and Social Council that the Commission had no adequate data on which its Committees could base their work. That was not the fault of the Commission or its secretariat. It was an indication of the low level of technical development in the region.

14. In connexion with ECAFE, his delegation had also noted that there seemed to be a lack of knowledge among its representatives of the background of the Council and the General Assembly. The Commission should be given more attention both by the Governments concerned and by the Council.

15. One pleasing feature of the work of the regional Commissions was that they and some of the specialized agencies had worked in close co-operation. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had all given assistance and participated in the Commissions' activities. He hoped that those joint efforts would soon bring tangible benefits to the peoples in the territories concerned.

16. It did not appear necessary for the Committee to take any action other than to note chapter II B of the Council's report; in doing so, however, it should realize that it was taking note of some of the most important work being done by the United Nations. Although it was not work which reached the headlines, it was none the less important. It was work that was bringing the hope of freedom to many unhappy people, that aimed at improving the conditions in which they worked and lived and at promoting the sympathy, understanding and good fellowship which would win respect and gratitude for the United Nations and strengthen the feeling of human solidarity.

17. New Zealand was proud to have been a member of the Economic and Social Council in its early and difficult years, and trusted that the new

delegations at the Council table, with their new view-points, would join the older delegations in the spirit of the Preamble to the Charter in friendly effort to accomplish to the full the tasks assigned to the Council.

18. He expressed his best wishes to the Economic and Social Council and hoped that it would always deserve a good reputation with all those who desired a peaceful, prosperous and generous world.

19. The CHAIRMAN warmly thanked Mr. Thorn for his statement. He hoped that New Zealand would continue to contribute to the Council's work as in the past.

20. Mr. CHAUVET (Haiti) stated that, after having studied chapter II B of the report of the Economic and Social Council, his delegation thought that there still remained much to be done by the Economic and Social Council and its functional Commissions.

21. He pointed out that there were gaps in the regional arrangements set up by the Council. The Council had established economic Commissions for Europe, Asia, the Far East and Latin America and had considered the possibility of a similar commission for the Middle East, but it had not yet considered the problems and needs of the African continent, which was one of the most undeveloped areas, with a population of some 200 million inhabitants. The Secretary-General had not been invited to make a comprehensive study on the economic problems of Africa, as he had been requested to do in the case of Europe, Asia, the Far East and Latin America. A study of the economic and social conditions of the African continent would, in his opinion, be of great help to the United Nations and specifically to the Economic and Social Council. His delegation therefore hoped that the Secretary-General would undertake such a study under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, in collaboration with the specialized agencies.

22. The Secretary-General had, it was true, included the study of Africa in his *World Economic Report, 1948*; but he had not analysed in sufficient detail the present economic conditions of the African population and the development of the under-developed regions of that continent. Moreover, the reports and studies received by the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on Information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter were limited. Further, if the Secretariat were asked to carry out such a study, it would utilize the limited data to be found in the reports transmitted to the Trusteeship Council.

23. He did not refer to any particular region of Africa. But he repeated that there had been no discussion until the present in the Economic and Social Council on a possible regional arrangement for Africa, and that Africa alone had been, so far, overlooked.

24. He would not, for the time being, propose a formal draft resolution with regard to Africa, since he hoped that that continent would benefit from the expanded programme of technical assistance. He reserved his right, however, if Africa was forgotten in the implementation of that programme, to introduce in the future a formal draft resolution concerning that continent. He hoped that the Economic and Social Council would shortly study the question and asked the

Secretary-General if he intended in the near future to submit the question of Africa to the Council.

25. Mr. MOE (Norway) associated his delegation with the expression of thanks to Mr. Thorn.

26. He proposed that Mr. Thorn's statement on the activities and problems of the Economic and Social Council should be included as an annex to the Committee's report to the General Assembly, and that the attention of members of the Council should be drawn to it.

It was so agreed.

27. Mr. SCHNAKE VERGARA (Chile) praised the impressive statement by the President of the Economic and Social Council, and noted that the work referred to in chapter II B of the report constituted some of the most interesting work undertaken by the United Nations. He felt that that was especially the case with regard to the work of the regional economic Commissions, which was of paramount importance for the economic development of the whole world. The same was true of the work of the various functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

28. In conclusion, Mr. Schnake Vergara pointed out, with regard to the question raised by the representative of Haiti, that Chile's interest in the African continent had already been shown recently, when the Chilean representative had urged at the 227th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, that studies should be made on the African continent, including the former Italian colonies. His delegation had wished to emphasize the need for the well-balanced economic development of under-developed countries. He felt sure that the studies to be carried out by the Economic and Social Council would include the question of the African continent.

29. Finally, many of the questions in chapter II B had already been dealt with by the Economic and Social Council, in particular the questions of full employment and the economic development of under-developed countries. The Committee could therefore conclude its consideration of that item by taking note of chapter II B of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

30. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of chapter II B of the report of the Economic and Social Council, on the understanding that its decisions would form part of a general draft resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly on the report as a whole.

31. Mr. TEJERA (Uruguay) expressed his appreciation of Mr. Thorn's statement, and felt that it should be included in the records of the Committee's meetings.

32. It was of fundamental importance for the prestige of the United Nations that it should, in its daily work, fulfil the hopes and aspirations of peoples all over the world.

33. He agreed with the New Zealand representative that it was not possible entirely to eliminate the political element in an Organization such as the United Nations, because representatives came from countries with different ideologies and constitutions. But good will and good faith, and a desire to discuss all problems on their merits, would attenuate political conflicts.

34. Mr. KARMARKAR (India) expressed his delegation's support for the Haitian representative's suggestion.

35. For obvious reasons, Africa had not received the attention it deserved. It was an enormous continent with vast potentialities, which, if properly developed, could add greatly to the economic welfare of Africa itself and of the world in general. Further consideration of the subject was complicated by the fact that the population of Africa was largely non-self-governing, but a thorough study by the Economic and Social Council of Africa's economic problems as well as of the measures which might be taken to ensure its economic development would undoubtedly prove useful.

36. He therefore proposed that the suggestion of the representative of Haiti be referred to the Economic and Social Council, as having received the approval of the Second Committee.

37. The CHAIRMAN said that the observations of the representatives of Chile, Haiti and India would be included in the Rapporteur's draft report, and that the Committee would decide whether the matter was to be referred to the Economic and Social Council.

38. Mr. HASSAN (Pakistan) also expressed his delegation's appreciation of the work of the Economic and Social Council and of the able guidance of its President. Mr. Thorn had given a complete picture of the work of the Council and had indicated how it might be made even more effective in the future. He had rightly stressed the importance of the work of ECAFE, and Mr. Hassan supported the suggestion for strengthening the machinery of ECAFE, as well as the suggestion that studies should be made on the economic problems of Africa.

39. The CHAIRMAN stated that he would arrange with the President of the Assembly to submit to the plenary session of the General Assembly an appropriate resolution which would take into account the fact that the Second Committee had taken note of chapter II B of the Economic and Social Council's report and would merge that action with similar actions of other Committees to which the other chapters of the report had been assigned.

40. Mr. ABELARDE (Philippines) drew attention to the fact that the delegations of Saudi Arabia and the Philippines had suggested (95th and 96th meetings) the extension of the expanded programme of technical assistance to non-members of the United Nations.

41. Following the procedural advice of the Chairman, Mr. Abelarde considered the present time appropriate for submitting a draft resolution (A/C.2/L.30/Rev.1) on the subject. He drew the special attention of the Committee to the last clause of the paragraph of the draft resolution, beginning with the word "*Decides*", which had been written with a particular country, Ceylon, in mind.

42. He felt that the Lebanese representative's remarks (113th meeting) on the subject of financial aid to non-members of the United Nations were sufficiently answered by the fact that General Assembly resolution 58 (I) provided for assistance to countries, non-members of the United Nations, although they were not members of a regional economic Commission

and that the Secretariat's report entitled *International Fellowships*, August 1949, also provided for assistance to such countries. He recalled that the expanded programme of technical assistance, which had been unanimously adopted by the Committee (98th meeting), provided for the technical assistance to non-member countries which participated to some extent in the work of the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

43. There was no need for further appropriations for technical assistance to achieve that purpose. All that was required was that non-member countries such as Ceylon should be entitled to receive technical assistance pending the coming into operation of the expanded programme, and for that reason he had submitted his delegation's draft resolution (A/C.2/L.30/Rev.1).

44. The President of the Economic and Social Council had drawn the attention of the Committee to the political instability and low standards of living in the States members of ECAFE. It was urgent that technical assistance should be granted to those countries immediately; political stability and a full measure of political freedom were directly dependent upon economic freedom.

45. The CHAIRMAN said that the Philippine representative had raised the problem of technical assistance for non-member countries for the first time at the 95th meeting. He had then asked the Committee to approve of the inclusion in the Rapporteur's report of a non-controversial point, namely, his delegation's view that countries not Members of the United Nations should be represented on the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) when the technical development of those countries was being discussed.

46. After a short discussion, the Chairman had decided that the point might be raised during discussion of the Rapporteur's draft report on the subject. When the report had been discussed, at the 113th meeting, the Philippine representative had not presented the question of the representation of non-members during discussion of technical assistance but had raised a different point and had urged that technical assistance under resolution 200 (III) should be given to non-member States. It had then been suggested that it might be in order to discuss a draft resolution

on that subject during discussion of chapter II B of the report of the Economic and Social Council, depending on the form of the draft resolution.

47. The procedure followed had given rise to some confusion in the mind of the Philippine representative, as a consequence of which he appeared to have lost the opportunity of having the Committee discuss a subject which he considered important. On that account and because he doubted the advisability of the subject being raised at a plenary meeting without preliminary discussion, the Chairman had decided to permit discussion of the Philippine draft resolution — although he did not consider it strictly in order — unless there were some objections on the part of members of the Committee. His feelings would not be hurt if a different stand was taken.

48. Mr. CHERNYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said the Committee had finished discussion of the question of economic development and of the expanded programme of technical assistance, had passed the necessary draft resolutions in connexion with these questions and had approved the report on the subject for submission to the Assembly. The Committee was not considering the relationship between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, which had been taken up by the Joint Second and Third Committee and Fifth Committee. Neither was the Committee studying the terms of reference or the activities of the regional economic Commissions, which were a matter for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council. He therefore considered that the Philippine draft resolution was out of order and, feeling that discussion of it would undermine the Committee's previous decisions and hamper its work, he moved that the Committee should not discuss it.

49. The CHAIRMAN ruled the Philippine draft resolution out of order.

50. Mr. ABELARDE (Philippines) appealed against the ruling of the Chairman under rule 102 of the rules of procedure.

51. The CHAIRMAN put his ruling to the vote.

The Chairman's ruling was upheld by 21 votes to 13, with 11 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Monday, 14 November 1949, at 11.10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Hernán SANTA CRUZ (Chile).

Full employment: draft report of the Rapporteur (A/C.2/L.31)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee would examine first the Rapporteur's draft report on full employment (A/C.2/L.31) and then the draft report (A/C.2/L.32) on chapter II B of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/972).

2. Mr. SMOLYAR (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Rapporteur, stated that no amendments had been proposed to the draft report (A/C.2/L.31) which had been circulated to members of the Committee. It differed in structure

from the report presented on the first item of the Committee's agenda (A/C.2/L.29) for it did not include any special section dealing with the general discussion. That was because discussion had centred from the first on the two draft resolutions submitted by Australia (A/C.2/L.14) and Czechoslovakia (A/C.2/L.16). The draft report dealt in detail with examination of those two draft resolutions and gave an accurate account of the introduction of the various amendments submitted. If, however, the Committee wished a section on the general discussion to appear in the report, he would accept that suggestion, although it seemed to him unnecessary.