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**General review of the programmes and activities in the economic, social, technical co-operation and related fields of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Children's Fund and all other institutions and agencies related to the United Nations system (*concluded*)**

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/7881)

1. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now resume its consideration of agenda item 38. The draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee are contained in paragraph 18 of part II of its report [A/7774/Add.1]. An amendment to draft resolution II has been submitted by India and has been circulated as document A/L.586.

2. I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes.

3. Mr. BRADLEY (Argentina) (*translated from Spanish*): When the Second Committee dealt with draft resolution II, contained in paragraph 18 of its report [A/7774/Add.1], my delegation abstained from voting because it felt that the draft raised certain problems in connexion with operative paragraphs 1 and 2. Paragraph 1 suggested that at the appropriate time an international conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should be held, while paragraph 2 requested the Industrial Development Board, when it came to study that suggestion, to consider also the possibility of acting as a preparatory committee for the special conference.

4. My delegation believed that in view of the fact that the United Nations Industrial Development Organization had not yet taken a decision on the convening of the conference or on the other provisions of paragraph 1, it could not be asked to consider the possibility of acting as a preparatory committee for a conference which it had not yet been decided to hold.

5. We are now gratified to find that the sponsors have proposed a revised version of draft resolution II, and particularly of paragraph 2, in which the reference to that possibility has been deleted, as a result of the amendment submitted by India this morning on behalf of all delegations [A/L.586].

6. There was also another problem relating to the financial implications of the initial draft considered by the Second Committee, in which the administrative and financial implications of the conference were estimated at roughly \$400,000. We now note that under the amendments

*President:* Miss Angie E. BROOKS (Liberia).

AGENDA ITEM 38

**United Nations Industrial Development Organization:  
report of the Industrial Development Board (*concluded*)**

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (part II)  
(A/7774/Add.1)

introduced during the last stage of the Second Committee's discussions this element has been removed, and we see from the report of the Fifth Committee [A/7894] that no additional appropriations will be needed for what the draft resolution now recommends.

7. We believe that the general idea of a special international conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization is a constructive one which, like all important ideas, must first be allowed to evolve within the international bodies which make up the United Nations family, in accordance with the practice followed in the case of other major conferences that this Organization has decided to hold. We feel that now, with this draft resolution in its amended form, we are again on the right path. The Industrial Development Board is being requested to study the problem, take a decision and make its report. We consider that the draft resolution has thus become a constructive one and shall consequently support it. We should also like to invite those delegations which shared our misgivings to change their votes, if possible, and support the draft resolution.

8. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Venezuela) (*translated from Spanish*): When the Second Committee voted on draft resolution II [A/7774/Add.1, para. 18], my delegation abstained, because it felt that a decision of the type proposed should command the support of the great majority of Member States and it was clear that no such support existed at the time.

9. However, if the amendments submitted this morning by the Indian representative [A/L.586] are acceptable to a majority of delegations, my own delegation is prepared to vote for the draft resolution, on the understanding that the new amendments make it clear that the General Assembly is not taking a final decision on the holding of a special conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

10. The PRESIDENT: We shall now proceed to vote on the draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 18 of its report [A/7774/Add.1].

11. Draft resolution I was adopted unanimously by the Second Committee. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly wishes also to adopt it unanimously.

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously [resolution 2577 (XXIV)].*

12. The PRESIDENT: Let us now turn to draft resolution II. The report of the Fifth Committee on the administrative and financial implications of that draft resolution has been circulated in document A/7894.

13. We shall first vote on the amendment submitted by India in document A/L.586.

*The amendment was adopted by 68 votes to none, with 33 abstentions.*

14. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will now vote on draft resolution II, as amended. A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Democratic Republic of), Cuba, Cyprus, Dahomey, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kuwait, Laos, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Southern Yemen, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

*Against:* Australia, Canada, Greece, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:* Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mongolia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Syria, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Upper Volta.

*Draft resolution II, as amended, was adopted by 61 votes to 8, with 35 abstentions [resolution 2578 (XXIV)].*

15. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Sweden for an explanation of vote.

16. Mr. BILLNER (Sweden): My delegation welcomes the resolution regarding the suggestion to convene a conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). At the meetings of the Industrial Development Board, Sweden has repeatedly requested that a study be undertaken as to the long-term programme of UNIDO, its organizational structure and the question of financing. The underlying idea is that such a study is of capital importance if we want to help UNIDO and its distinguished Executive Director to make a maximum contribution to industrial development.

17. As a first step the Executive Director should undertake to submit a fact-finding report. In this respect I wish to recall that the Executive Director, in his concluding statement to the Second Committee on 10 November, stated *inter alia* that:

"The Industrial Development Board did not come to a specific conclusion at its last session as regards the future programme and long-term activities of the organization, but one delegate took it that the resumption of such discussions in the Industrial Development Board next April could be very much facilitated if the Executive Director were requested to submit a report on the subject to the Industrial Development Board. If it is the wish of the Second Committee and the General Assembly that I do so, I will happily comply."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This statement was made at the 1275th meeting of the Second Committee, the official records of which are published in summary form.

18. Thanks to the resolution just adopted by the General Assembly, such a mandate has now been given to the Executive Director. Paragraph 3 of the resolution requests him "to prepare a report on the above-mentioned subjects for consideration by the Industrial Development Board at its fourth session".

19. I wish to add that my delegation shares the view of the Fifth Committee that the report can be prepared without any additional cost. We are satisfied that a fact-finding study of the kind that the resolution requests can be undertaken within the framework of UNIDO's existing resources. That means that irrespective of the final outcome on the holding of the conference the Board will be in a position to initiate a thorough review of the fundamental issues regarding UNIDO's work programme, organization and financing.

20. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will now consider agenda item 47. The draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee are to be found in paragraph 16 of its report [A/7881].

21. I now call on the representative of France on a point of order.

22. Mr. PRAGUE (France) (*translated from French*): During the discussions which took place in the Second Committee on draft resolution I [A/7881, para. 16], the French delegation had occasion to raise certain objections to paragraph 3. We consider that this paragraph gives the Economic and Social Council terms of reference which are so rigid and categorical as to allow it no measure of judgement on the principle or even the practical application of the steps proposed. We consider that the General Assembly should, in accordance with the Charter, allow the Economic and Social Council some latitude in organizing its co-ordinating activities and, in particular, in establishing the terms of reference and working methods of its subsidiary bodies.

23. My delegation would therefore like to have a separate vote on paragraph 3. It intends to abstain on this paragraph in order to indicate its reservations on the proposals it contains. My delegation will, however, be in a position to vote in favour of the draft resolution as a whole.

24. The PRESIDENT: I now invite members to turn their attention to the draft resolutions contained in paragraph 16 of the report [A/7881]. The report of the Fifth Committee on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution I has been circulated in document A/7897. A separate vote has been requested on paragraph 3 of that draft resolution.

25. We shall first put that paragraph to the vote.

*Paragraph 3 was adopted by 84 votes to 1, with 22 abstentions.*

26. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now vote on draft resolution I as a whole.

*Draft resolution I was adopted by 106 votes to none, with 4 abstentions [resolution 2579 (XXIV)].*

27. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now vote on draft resolution II.

*Draft resolution II was adopted by 100 votes to none, with 11 abstentions [resolution 2580 (XXIV)].*

## AGENDA ITEM 21

### Problems of the human environment: report of the Secretary-General

#### REPORTS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/7866) AND OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

28. The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that the General Assembly decided that this item should be referred to the Second Committee for its consideration and report and that it should also be discussed in plenary and in the Third Committee.

29. After I have called on the Rapporteur of the Second Committee and the Rapporteur of the Third Committee, I shall call upon those representatives who wish to speak on the item in general or in explanation of vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee. I call first on the Rapporteur of the Second Committee.

30. Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia), Rapporteur of the Second Committee: I have the honour to present the report on agenda item 21 [A/7866]. The Committee considered this item at five meetings and recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution which appears in paragraph 12 of its report.

31. It will be noted that in the last paragraph of the report the Committee recommends that the General Assembly should adopt the decision that Members which are not appointed to the Preparatory Committee have the right to designate representatives to act as accredited observers who may participate in the work of the Committee at its sessions.

32. The PRESIDENT: I now invite the Rapporteur of the Third Committee to present orally that Committee's report.

33. Mr. HANDL (Czechoslovakia), Rapporteur of the Third Committee: Agenda item 21, problems of the human environment, was basically allocated by the General Assembly to the Second Committee. The Assembly asked, however, that it should also be discussed in the Third Committee.

34. Accordingly, the Third Committee considered this item at its 1276th to 1278th meetings, when it had before it the draft resolution recommended to the General Assembly by the Second Committee [see A/7866, para. 12]. The background of the item and the salient points of the Second Committee's recommendations were explained to the Third Committee by the representative of Sweden.

35. The Third Committee seemed generally agreed in the belief that the problems of the human environment, while varying in nature and degree, were of concern to developed

and developing countries alike. In view of the wide scope of the subject, it was felt that the agenda of the conference should be selective and that the documentation should not be excessive.

36. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Third Committee took note of the debate on this item in the Second Committee and associated itself with the draft resolution unanimously recommended by the Second Committee for adoption by the General Assembly.

37. The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to speak on the item in general or in explanation of vote.

38. Mr. TARABANOV (Bulgaria) (*translated from French*): The delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is speaking during explanations of vote because it has not so far had an opportunity to make clear its positive attitude towards the very important problem of the human environment, which has long been of concern to the United Nations. This, you will remember, was because of the difficulties to which the incorrect procedural treatment of the problem gave rise.

39. Now, with the better understanding of the question which is becoming apparent, efforts have been made and steps have been taken to dispel the difficulties which were raised artificially with regard to the method of organizing the Conference, and our delegation considers that the time has come for it to state its position on so important a question in a far more positive way.

40. It is true that past obstacles placed in the way of the organization of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment have not been entirely removed; this is borne out by paragraph 6 of the draft resolution [A/7866, para. 12], in which the Secretary-General is requested to pursue consultations in accordance with past decisions, which were not formulated clearly enough. The delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria hopes, however, that that will not prevent the Secretary-General from acting in accordance with the letter and spirit of the present draft resolution and thus placing this question in its true perspective, thereby making it possible to mobilize the efforts of mankind as a whole in solving this problem.

41. The seriousness and urgency of the problems of the human environment and the need for the international community to take practical steps to preserve, protect and facilitate control of its natural resources and to solve the problems created by the rapid expansion of technology and the urbanization of our society were amply demonstrated during the Second Committee's examination of the question. This examination showed that the problems of the human environment are of concern to all countries and regions—in other words, both to industrialized and developed countries and to developing countries.

42. Certain social aspects were also emphasized and these, in our opinion, should not be neglected in the search for solutions to the problems of the human environment.

43. The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria attaches particular importance to these problems, as is

readily understandable. The accelerated industrialization of our country and the rapid growth of urban centres during the 25 years of socialist construction have raised very serious problems; the adoption and application of urgent administrative measures have been essential to deal with the most critical aspects of air, water and soil pollution and to preserve our natural heritage. Considerable research work has been undertaken with a view to drawing the public's attention to the importance of human environment problems and some measures have recently been adopted. Our country is collaborating closely in the work undertaken in this field by the Economic Commission for Europe in preparation for the Conference on the human environment to be held in Prague in 1971.

44. It is therefore entirely natural that the delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria strongly welcomed from the outset the Swedish Government's initiative<sup>2</sup> in drawing the attention of the United Nations to this important problem.

45. The urgent need for broad international co-operation with a view to protecting and improving the human environment, to preventing, or at least alleviating, its deterioration, has been strongly felt in our country. We welcome the fact that the work undertaken as a result of the Swedish proposal has already gone beyond the stage of general ideas and that at this session of the General Assembly we are to consider specific provisions for the preparation of an international conference on the human environment to be held in Stockholm in June 1972, thanks to the kind hospitality of the Swedish Government.

46. International co-operation in this field is certainly indispensable. It is highly desirable that such co-operation should be achieved at once, during the preparations for the conference on the human environment, and not merely as a sequel to it. It is encouraging to note that the draft resolution submitted to the General Assembly in this report is much closer to the requirements of such international co-operation than the resolution first submitted, which was adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its Geneva session.<sup>3</sup> The present text is more likely to contribute to the success of this important United Nations undertaking than were earlier resolutions.

47. My delegation appreciates the efforts that have been made, first and foremost by the Swedish delegation, and the spirit of understanding shown by the sponsors of the draft resolution submitted to the Second Committee. We should like to hope that the spirit of understanding shown during the drafting of the resolution and the desire to ensure the widest possible international co-operation will also prevail in the future when the real work of the Conference begins.

48. All who wish the preparatory work to be placed on a firm foundation will no doubt continue to work for the removal of the artificial obstacles in the way of the active participation of all countries and States in this vitally important international undertaking. It is certainly impos-

<sup>2</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fifth Session, Annexes, agenda item 12, document E/4466/Add.1.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid., Supplement No. 1 [E/4561, resolution 1346 (XIV)].*

sible to solve this problem without the contribution and participation of all States and all countries. We are sure that those preparing for the Conference will also take the necessary steps to eliminate any factors that might spoil the climate in which the preparatory work on the human environment and the future Conference itself are to take place. We hope that there will likewise prevail in the future a spirit of true co-operation on a world-wide scale, which we are certain will ensure the success of the Stockholm conference.

49. In view of all these considerations, the delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria will vote in favour of the draft resolution before us.

50. Mr. RAMPHUL (Mauritius): Three days ago my country was appointed a member of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment to be held in Sweden in 1972. My delegation is extremely grateful to Sweden, *avant-garde* in so many spheres of life, for having brought this crucial problem of our modern times to world attention.

51. Following last year's General Assembly resolution 2398 (XXIII), the report prepared by the Secretary-General<sup>4</sup> is an excellent document which will serve as a very useful background to the more detailed studies to come.

52. It is not my intention, especially at this late stage of the Assembly's work, to make a technical speech; I wish to make a short statement, and to place on record the concern of the Mauritius Government about the problems facing us all and to pledge, on behalf of my delegation, all possible efforts inside the Preparatory Committee for the preparations to be as thorough as possible, since we all understand that the success of the 1972 Stockholm Conference depends a great deal on the preparations and co-ordinating of the Committee.

53. To attempt a precise definition of the term "human environment" is a difficult exercise; if throughout history man has been full of ingenuity and inventiveness, he has also had a tendency towards destruction—not only destruction of nature, but also destruction of himself.

54. Until recently man as an individual has often behaved as a selfish animal and generally cared little for the consequences, either short-term or long-term, of his actions on others, not realizing very often that he might be bringing misery upon himself as well. The result is that today man is at least one move behind his own advance in technology and the demographic growth of the whole world.

55. There is no doubt too that the same advance in technology, if properly applied to the problems of human environment, could solve most of them. This can only be done, however, by means of intensive international co-operation and, despite the criticisms one hears every day about the United Nations, one has to be very thankful that such a forum exists in which ideas can be initiated on solving problems, such as the one which we are called upon to solve.

56. In the Secretary-General's report stress is rightly laid upon the necessity of arousing the public's awareness to the

dangers facing the world in order to obtain its total co-operation. It is also clear, however, that if and when this can be done there will always be a certain proportion of men and women in the world who will probably not care very much. This is why it is the feeling of my delegation that one of the most immediate tasks on a long-term basis is that children all over the surface of the globe should be taught from their earliest years about the human heritage and respect for nature. When this is done, the generation to come will be in a position to continue and carry out, probably with more enthusiasm and spontaneity, the work which has been started by their elders. On this matter we are fully in agreement with the recommendations of UNESCO.

57. The whole United Nations family will have to work hard at this urgent problem, otherwise carbon dioxide, insecticides and pesticides will, in the very near future, spell "homicide".

58. Mauritius is an island of the Indian Ocean, and sea produce is one of our main sources of protein. It is now a scientific fact that already the marine environment is being affected by human activities. This, among other manifestations of deterioration of the human environment, is of great concern to my country and certainly to many other small and developing countries of the world. If only for this reason, contributions from all, whether developed or developing States, are urgently required if we are to advance towards a solution of the dangerous problems of human environment, which we have all contributed to create. We shall, naturally, vote in favour of the draft resolution before us, and we make an appeal that it should be adopted unanimously.

59. Mr. Patrick SHAW (Australia): The Australian delegation co-sponsored the draft resolution and Australia will give its full support to the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and to the Conference itself. I wish, however, to point out that the application of the electoral group system in determining the composition of the Preparatory Committee has not resulted in the equitable representation on this Committee of the different types of world environments. For example, the environment of Europe is comprehensively covered on the Committee with a total representation of nine countries. On the other hand, one entire continent is not represented although this Committee comprises 27 members. The Asian-Pacific region as a whole is under-represented, and the Pacific area south of the equator is not represented at all.

60. Despite our dissatisfaction with the composition of the Preparatory Committee, Australia nevertheless intends to take part actively in its work in accordance with the provisions of the consensus decision of the Second Committee contained in paragraph 13 of the report. That decision provides for the participation of highly qualified representatives to act as accredited observers at sessions of the Committee, with the right to participate in its discussions.

61. Mr. TARASSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): In the Second Committee [1272nd meeting] my delegation supported the draft

<sup>4</sup> Document E/4667.

resolution on the convening in 1972 of an international conference on the human environment, submitted on the initiative of Sweden. That was in accordance with the position of the Soviet Government, which welcomed the interest shown by the United Nations in this problem, a matter of urgency for all countries. In not opposing the adoption of the draft resolution, the Soviet delegation was acting on the belief that the totality of factors adversely affecting the human environment urgently calls for the intensification of national efforts in this important sphere of human activity, and also the co-ordination of all these efforts at the international level.

62. The Soviet delegation accordingly believes that all the preparations for the Conference and the content of its work should be directed towards solving the key problems by uniting national and international efforts and by creating a solid basis for purposeful international co-operation in the interests of all countries and peoples. That is the perspective in which our delegation views the preparatory work. The need to organize international co-operation and the importance of the problems confronting all countries in this respect call for universal participation in the preparations for and in the actual work of the Conference: that is to say, participation in the preparation and work of the Conference by all countries and by those international organizations which have to deal with the problems of human environment. It should therefore be open to all States to associate themselves with the documents to be produced by the Conference without any discrimination whatsoever. The Soviet delegation regards as completely unnatural any attempts to prevent the participation in the preparations for and proceedings of the conference of a number of the world's major industrial countries, and particularly the German Democratic Republic. As has already been rightly pointed out here by Ambassador Tarabanov, the distinguished representative of Bulgaria, all countries should share the responsibility for keeping the human environment fit for future generations. The Soviet delegation imagines therefore that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in holding consultations connected with preparations for the Conference, will be guided by the principles of the Organization and of co-operation by all States and that the General Assembly resolution will not restrict the Secretary-General's freedom to take advantage of the valuable experience possessed by countries, including socialist countries, that are not members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies. To show discrimination against any State in preparing for and holding the Conference can only be harmful to a cause which is of importance to all peoples in the world.

63. Guided by the Soviet State's lofty objective of multiplying the wealth of the human environment and improving life for this and succeeding generations, the Soviet Government will do everything in its power to ensure that the preparations for the forthcoming Conference are successful and its proceedings fruitful.

64. Mrs. BLACK (United States of America): My delegation is delighted to support agenda item 21 concerning the problems of the human environment. I should like to make a brief statement regarding some of the considerations leading to our affirmative vote.

65. As Apollo 12 was half-way back to earth, one of the astronauts peered out of the window and saw the planet

Earth. Millions of us heard him say: "It's a beautiful world." From his perspective, it is true. Down here on earth we are not so sure. The jet-stream of winds blow from New York towards Europe. How long before our smog adds to Europe's problem? The Soviet Union's Lake Baikal, one of the finest bodies of water anywhere, is threatened by industry. The middle of the Atlantic was visibly polluted last summer, says the explorer Thor Heyerdahl. The Volga, once a 2,300-mile splendid river, is now menaced by discharges from chemical, oil and industrial plants. So is North America's Lake Erie. The Sea of Japan shows unmistakable signs of pollution. How long will it be before Japan's problem becomes somebody else's problem too? In my own country we estimate that each year, each person throws away one ton of solid waste—paper, plastic and metal.

66. In essence, whenever man abuses nature, some day in some way he will pay a price. The problems of the human environment touch us all. It is not just a matter of sympathy for the East River, outside this very building, or for the sky over industrialized areas, which is infrequently blue. Those problems are global. As the sailor says, we are in the boat together and we must row.

67. We have three clear general choices of action: First, we can do as we have done. Tomorrow awaits us, brooding, and we could just slam the door in his gloomy face. Secondly, we can propose impossible remedies—very neat, very easy. Air pollution comes from the exhausts of automobiles and the belching smokestacks of industry. So do we encourage the developing nations to stay pastoral, to avoid exhausts and smokestacks? No, complex problems have no simple solutions. Our third alternative course has been ably proposed by my colleague from Sweden. We must recognize that the shadow that looms over us is global, and our response will be dissipated unless we confront the threat carefully and together.

68. The problems of the human environment are, to some of us, an old story; but we are letting "progress" kill the things that we value. Just as science and technology have been a boon to mankind, so this side effect has done great damage. Obviously, we cannot turn off the faucet of human progress. Our common challenge is to improve the management of our human environment. The proper use of science is not to conquer nature, but to live with it. The solutions may hurt. They should not be anticipated lightly.

69. The proposed United Nations Conference on the Human Environment is an absolutely vital step. My Government compliments Sweden for exercising this initiative, and enthusiastically supports the draft resolution concerning the Conference.

70. However, I have one reservation. In the debate in the Second Committee I stressed the hope that the Preparatory Committee and the Secretariat would be mindful of the principles of ecology while composing the Conference agenda and conducting the Conference. Matters so complex and broad have a way of diffusing themselves in all directions unless carefully related to one another.

71. The solutions will not be a simple matter of gadgets, regulations and dollars; they entail organic, interconnected

plans of action that affect the attitudes and actions of Governments and people. We must not plan according to our hopes, and risk producing according to our fears.

72. In closing, may I observe that in the past few months as a representative of the United States to this General Assembly I have looked, I have listened, I have done my homework, and occasionally I have tamed my tongue? Our common problems are legion and chronic: problems of human development, economic progress, and, regrettably, problems based on fighting, religion and politics; but most of these are diminished in the shadow of an equally ominous world problem. It has not yet fallen on our shoulders and brought us to the ground, but it is in hot pursuit.

73. Man is threatened by his own environment. We have not done a satisfactory job of planning for our needs and planning for our wastes. In the forthcoming Conference and beyond we must learn a new ethic based on ecological principles. We must abandon apathy and self-absorption. We do not have time for what I call one-eyed interests. We must set a tone of urgency to which the world can respond. This Conference is an ideal way of ringing a fire-bell that all can hear and none can ignore.

74. Some future day another astronaut may fly back from outer space and glance out of the window and see the approaching shape of earth, illuminated in blue, green and white against the blackness of space. He may say: "It's a beautiful world"—and if we have done our job well, it will be.

75. Mr. CORREA (Chile) (*translated from Spanish*): My delegation has given its fullest support to the proposal which first originated with the Swedish delegation for holding a conference on the human environment in Sweden in 1972. We should like to thank that delegation for its concern with the problem in question, which meets a desire and a need of world-wide proportions since it affects not only the developed countries but also, and in a very significant way, the developing countries.

76. Chile suffers from problems of urbanization, overcrowding, erosion and pollution, just as do the developed countries. Unfortunately, our delegation will be unable to sit on the Preparatory Committee for the Conference but, as provided for in the draft resolution itself [A/7766, para. 12], we propose to appoint a highly specialized representative to attend as an observer.

77. We are particularly concerned about this Conference because we believe that while man has caused the deterioration in the human environment, he is also its chief victim; he is its victim not only because of the physical consequences that are so admirably analysed in the Secretary-General's report but also for various other reasons which are beginning to change the very mode of existence of mankind, and to interfere with his activities and way of life. We are disturbed that the Conference should be confined solely to analysing the physical consequences and not deal with social aspects such as those related to mental well-being, education, health, etc. The quest for solutions to urbanization, overcrowding, pollution, erosion and other problems is of the greatest importance, if not essential, but

this should not cause us to overlook the fact that, meanwhile, we must deal with and solve man's more immediate problems, such as housing, education and health, which are being affected by the deterioration in the human environment. We therefore believe that the Conference should not simply deal with physical problems but should also seek provisional or permanent solutions to the social problems I have mentioned. My delegation will be guided by these considerations in the proceedings of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference.

78. Lastly, I should like to express once more my thanks to the Swedish delegation and our hope that the draft resolution will receive unanimous approval.

79. The PRESIDENT: We turn to paragraph 12 of the report [A/7866], which contains the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Assembly. The report of the Fifth Committee on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution is to be found in document A/7784.

80. The draft resolution was adopted unanimously in the Second Committee. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly also wishes to adopt it unanimously.

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously [resolution 2581 (XXIV)].*

81. The PRESIDENT: The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the decision in paragraph 13 of its report [A/7866]. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly would like to adopt that decision.

*It was so decided.*

82. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Sweden, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote.

83. Mr. ÅSTRÖM (Sweden): I have asked for the floor to make a brief statement. It is with deep satisfaction that the Swedish Government greets the unanimous decision just taken by the General Assembly. That decision is the signal to start substantive preparations for the Conference in 1972. The Conference secretariat will now be set up; the Preparatory Committee will meet as soon as possible in the new year; it will then be possible to begin working out the precise agenda designed to enable the Conference to fulfil its basic purpose and to do so with all the urgency commensurate with the seriousness of the problem.

84. The purpose of this international effort is not to provide one more forum for scientific research and scientific exchange of opinion. Its purpose is to serve as a practical means of encouraging and providing guidelines for action for Governments and international organizations for the protection and improvement of the human environment and of remedying and preventing its impairment by means of international co-operation.

85. I need not repeat here that efforts to enable developing countries to forestall the occurrence of such problems will be of particular importance.

86. We believe that the preparations for the Conference should take the form of an intense dialogue between the United Nations, with its specialized agencies, and Member countries, as well as between Member countries and groups of countries. It may be expected that even in the course of the preparations for the Conference useful information on various aspects of the problem will be made available to Governments.

87. We also believe that the Conference should not be viewed as an end in itself but rather as a focal point for a long-range programme to help Member countries to tackle their environmental problems rationally and effectively. In other words, the preparations for the Conference, the Conference itself, and the follow-up to the Conference should be considered as parts of one single continuing process.

88. The concentrated efforts to prepare for the 1972 Conference should in no way replace the substantive work that is already going on within intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, nor should they be allowed to hinder or postpone such work. On the contrary, those efforts should serve to stimulate research and action, both nationally and internationally.

89. At the same time, it is our hope that the preparations for the Conference will make Governments see and recognize the need for co-ordination and a rational division of labour. The growing awareness of the urgency of the environmental problems has caused a large number of international organizations to enquire what they can do to help solve them. That is understandable, and indeed worth encouraging. However, we believe it to be highly desirable that Governments constantly keep the risk of duplication in mind.

90. We are also convinced that Governments will wish to avoid using organizational forms which would exclude certain countries from participation on grounds not relevant to the subject-matter or which would seem to give the work political overtones.

91. It remains only for me to say that the Swedish Government is deeply aware of the responsibility placed on it through the decision to hold the 1972 Conference in Sweden. We shall do everything we can through practical arrangements to make the Conference fulfil its purpose.

92. The Charter speaks of our obligation to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Let us hope that the same solidarity with the generations to come will guide and inspire the endeavour on which the United Nations is now embarked.

## AGENDA ITEM 12

### Reports of the Economic and Social Council (continued)\*

#### REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/7840)

\* Resumed from the 1832nd session.

## AGENDA ITEMS 59 AND 60

### International Year for Human Rights: report of the Secretary-General

### Implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on Human Rights: report of the Secretary-General

#### REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/7841)

93. The PRESIDENT: I invite the Rapporteur of the Third Committee, Mr. Handl of Czechoslovakia, to present in one intervention the reports of that Committee.

94. Mr. HANDL (Czechoslovakia), Rapporteur of the Third Committee: I have the honour to present to the General Assembly the report of the Third Committee dealing with certain parts of the reports of the Economic and Social Council<sup>5</sup> allocated to the Committee by the Assembly [A/7840].

95. The Assembly will see from paragraphs 41 to 45 of the Third Committee's report that it is first called upon to take note of three of the Committee's decisions. In the first of those decisions the Committee concurred with the recommendation of the Second Committee that the General Assembly defer, *sine die*, the amendment of the Assembly's rules of procedure recommended by the Economic and Social Council.

96. In the second decision the Third Committee raised no objection to the Council recommendation that a review of the work of UNICEF in the Third Committee should take place every two years, rather than annually.

97. In the third decision the Committee took note of the Council's decision that the question of advisory services in the field of human rights need no longer normally be included as a matter of routine in the Council's agenda.

98. The draft resolutions recommended under this item for adoption by the General Assembly are set out in paragraph 46 of the Third Committee's report.

99. Draft resolution I, on the United Nations Children's Fund, recognizes, in particular, that UNICEF would be in a position to meet more of the vast unsatisfied needs of children and young people if more resources were made available to it, and appeals to donor States to increase their contributions to UNICEF.

100. Draft resolution II, on the question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity, *inter alia*, invites States which have not yet done so to sign and ratify as soon as possible the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity, draws attention to the special need for international action in order to ensure the prosecution and punishment of persons guilty of such crimes, and requests States to submit

<sup>5</sup> A/7603, chapters VIII, IX, XI (sections A, B, E and I) and XIII; A/7203, paragraphs 764 to 770.



to the Secretary-General information on the measures taken by them in implementation of the draft resolution. The Secretary-General is requested to submit a progress report on the question to the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly.

101. Draft resolution III, on the adoption of an international instrument for the control of psychotropic substances, requests the Economic and Social Council to call upon the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to complete at its forthcoming special session the draft protocol for the control of psychotropic substances not yet under international control.

102. Draft resolution IV, on advisory services in the field of human rights, expresses its appreciation to the Governments which acted as hosts to seminars in 1969 and expresses the hope that the United Nations, in co-operation with Governments, will continue to promote its activities in this field.

103. Draft resolution V relates to the promotion of respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms during the Second United Nations Development Decade.

104. Draft resolution VI, on the Commission on the Status of Women, urges the Economic and Social Council to reconsider its decision of 8 August 1969 so that the Commission on the Status of Women may continue to meet annually, preferably three months after the General Assembly.

105. The General Assembly has before it also the report of the Third Committee on its consideration of agenda items 59 and 60, dealing with the International Year for Human Rights and the implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on Human Rights [A/7841]. Having discussed those two items jointly, the Committee submits, in paragraph 33 of its report, two draft resolutions for approval by the General Assembly.

106. In draft resolution A, adopted after consideration of the Secretary-General's final report on the observance last year of the International Year for Human Rights and of his report on the implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran in 1968, the Assembly would express the hope that the measures and activities undertaken on the occasion of the International Year by States, the United Nations, and the organizations concerned will be continued, developed and enlarged, and that the initiatives which have emerged from the observance of the Year will serve as guidelines for future human rights action-oriented activities. The Assembly would also, under the draft resolution, invite Governments, United Nations organs, and other organizations concerned to continue to give effect, as appropriate, to the recommendations of the International Conference on Human Rights.

107. Draft resolution B deals with a particular matter, arising out of one of the important recommendations made by the Conference, namely, resolution VIII entitled "The importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of

independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights". The Assembly would call upon all Governments concerned to abide by United Nations resolutions on the right to self-determination, decolonization and territorial integrity and review the progress in the implementation of such resolutions as well as Teheran Conference resolution VIII at the next Assembly session.

*Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the reports of the Third Committee.*

108. The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes.

109. Mr. ALARCON (Cuba) (*translated from Spanish*): We should like to explain our delegation's position on draft resolution II [A/7840, para. 46], which concerns the question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who have committed crimes against humanity.

110. As we stated during the discussions in the Third Committee, our delegation fully supports the spirit, aims and intention of this draft resolution. Mankind as a whole joins in condemning the barbarous crimes committed by the Nazis in the Second World War—the mass extermination of innocent civilians during those hostilities.

111. Such crimes as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes must not go unpunished, since they offend against the loftiest values of the entire human species. That is why the view is so strongly held today that there must be no statutory limitation for such crimes. It is in the interests of the whole of mankind that these crimes should not go unpunished, that those guilty of genocide should not be allowed to go free but should face their responsibility before the rest of the human race for brutal acts which merit general condemnation.

112. As I said, my delegation heartily supports this draft resolution. But, we do not believe that in adopting it the General Assembly is merely performing an act of historical justice and taking a stand against the barbarism that beset Europe a quarter of a century ago. If we condemn crimes committed 25 years ago, we must with even greater force condemn those committed 25 months or 25 days ago, those being committed at this very moment or which may be committed in future.

113. That is why my delegation affirmed—and wishes to reaffirm at this meeting today—that this problem is quite inescapably a topical one. If the Nazi hierarchy were alive today to see what is going on in South-East Asia, they would find much to learn from their United States heirs. The crimes of the Nazi appear small today when compared with the attempts being made by United States imperialism to wipe out the population of Viet-Nam.

114. Along with other delegations, we referred in the Third Committee to the Song My massacre, which aroused world-wide indignation, condemnation and repugnance. We stated then that the crime at Song My was not an individual act but rather the reflexion of a systematic policy to destroy a people whom the aggressors had failed to conquer, and that such a policy was not the responsibility

merely of the handful of soldiers who took a direct part in those shameful events but rather of the United States Government itself, its leaders, its political and military chiefs.

115. We also said that the crime of Song My was not the only one we might mention if we look into the situation in Viet-Nam. To the name of Song My we should have to add that of Ba Lang An with its 1,500 persons killed or wounded; the 1,000 killed or wounded in the prisons at Paulo Condro; Tai Ninh; the 1,400 prisoners violated at the Thu Duc prison for women; the village of Khi Thuan with its 380 dead; My Hoi with 87 dead; Xuan Duong with 35 dead; and My Li, where 15 civilians were murdered when they ran there to shelter from the bombings. The vast majority of those killed were women, elderly people and children. Moreover, these are not the only massacres perpetrated against the civilian population of South Viet-Nam.

116. As we mentioned in the Third Committee and wish to state again today, further and more frightening revelations may come to light, simply because these crimes, these heinous acts, are not the work of isolated individuals but the expression of a consistent and planned policy on the part of the aggressors.

117. It must further be recognized that the first crime is the very war of aggression itself against the people of Viet-Nam. The aggression against Viet-Nam is essentially a war against humanity. The so-called "Viet-Namization" of the war is in reality the "de-Viet-Namization" of Viet-Nam—an attempt to liquidate an entire people struggling heroically for their freedom and independence.

118. The exemplary resistance of the Viet-Nameese, their tenacious and hardy struggle against the aggressors, have placed imperialism in a position in which it has only two alternatives: either the total and unconditional withdrawal of all its troops from Viet-Nam or the continuation of its brutal campaign of systematic extermination of the civilian population.

119. In adopting this resolution recommended by the Third Committee, we are condemning not only the Nazis of yesteryear but also the Nazis of today; we are condemning the liquidation of thousands of people in Europe, but no less those who are today committing even greater crimes in South-East Asia; we condemn those who yesterday used gas chambers against defenceless prisoners but we also condemn those who are today using napalm, defoliants and other means of mass destruction on Viet-Nameese soil; we are condemning those who yesterday exterminated thousands of unfortunate persons in concentration camps but also those who are today wreaking destruction on the paddy-fields, pagodas, dikes, hospitals, villages and cities of Viet-Nam.

120. Those guilty of genocide today will not escape retribution since they have already been condemned by the conscience of mankind as a whole. History has already reached its verdict on the Yankee aggressors and it is inexorable. Through their selfless and heroic struggle, it is the Viet-Nameese people themselves who will carry out this sentence by totally defeating the aggressors.

121. I should like to conclude by quoting the statement made on 24 November 1969 by the spokesman for the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam, referring to the massacre at Song My:

"The people and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam appeal to the justice- and peace-loving countries of the world, to the democratic international organizations and to the peoples of the world, including the people of the United States, to condemn the United States aggressors outright and to take effective steps in order to curb their criminal actions and, together with the people of Viet-Nam, to demand that the United States call an immediate halt to its war of aggression and order the total and unconditional withdrawal of its own and satellite troops from South Viet-Nam, thus leaving the people of South Viet-Nam to settle their own internal affairs for themselves without foreign intervention."

122. Mr. PAOLINI (France) (*translated from French*): My delegation wishes to explain its vote on draft resolution A/7840, paras. 4-6, which it will vote against for the following reasons. The decision taken by the Economic and Social Council on 9 August 1969 [A/7603, para. 621] is in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee of Seven on the reorganization of the Secretariat<sup>6</sup> and with the report of the Committee on Conferences<sup>7</sup> approved by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session. In reorganizing the sessions of the Social Development Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women on a biennial basis, this decision is intended to strengthen the effectiveness of these functional commissions while reducing the cost of conferences. The number of meetings with which the Secretariat has to deal is now so great that documents relating to the agenda of the Commission on the Status of Women, for example, can never be published in time for them to be usefully studied by delegations. My delegation will therefore vote against draft resolution VI, in which the General Assembly requests the Economic and Social Council to reconsider its decision of 9 August 1969 so that the Commission on the Status of Women may continue to meet annually.

123. My delegation asked that the financial implications of this draft resolution should be studied in the Fifth Committee. It regrets that that was not done before the Assembly was called upon to take a decision on this draft resolution.

124. My delegation draws attention to the inaccuracies in the note submitted under symbol number A/C.3/L.1752. The Third Committee's recommendation that the Commission on the Status of Women should meet annually from 1971 will obviously have no financial implications for the 1970 budget. It will, however, have considerable implications for the budget estimates for 1971 and following years. If draft resolution VI is adopted, my delegation will request that the Secretariat should provide the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with a complete estimate of the additional expenditure that would

<sup>6</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 74, document A/7359.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-third Session, agenda item 75, document A/7361.

thus be incurred, including the estimated cost of documentation and conference services, so that that Committee may state its views on the question before the Economic and Social Council takes it up again.

125. Lastly, my delegation wishes to point out that draft resolution VI is in direct contradiction with a draft resolution just adopted by the Fifth Committee [A/7914, para. 16], by which the General Assembly approves the efforts of the Economic and Social Council to reduce the number of conferences and urges it to continue in that direction.

126. My delegation wishes to ask for a recorded vote on draft resolution VI.

127. The PRESIDENT: I now invite representatives to turn to the report of the Third Committee [A/7840] which relates to chapters of the Economic and Social Council report referred to the Third Committee.<sup>8</sup> We shall take a decision, one by one, on the draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 46 of its report.

128. Draft resolution I was adopted unanimously by the Third Committee. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Assembly also wishes to adopt it unanimously.

*Draft resolution I was adopted unanimously [resolution 2582 (XXIV)].*

129. The PRESIDENT: We shall now vote on draft resolution II.

*Draft resolution II was adopted by 74 votes to 5, with 32 abstentions [resolution 2583 (XXIV)].*

130. The PRESIDENT: We now turn to draft resolution III, which was adopted unanimously in the Second Committee. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly also wishes to adopt it unanimously.

*Draft resolution III was adopted unanimously [resolution 2584 (XXIV)].*

131. The PRESIDENT: We now turn to draft resolution IV. May I take it that the Assembly would like to adopt it by acclamation?

*Draft resolution IV was adopted by acclamation [resolution 2585 (XXIV)].*

132. The PRESIDENT: We shall now vote on draft resolution V.

*Draft resolution V was adopted by 105 votes to none, with 9 abstentions [resolution 2586 (XXIV)].*

133. The PRESIDENT: We turn now to draft resolution VI. A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burundi, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia.

*Against:* Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Libya, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Senegal, Singapore, Sweden, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta.

*Abstaining:* Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Niger, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

*Draft resolution VI was adopted by 48 votes to 30, with 31 abstentions [resolution 2587 (XXIV)].*

134. The PRESIDENT: I would now ask Members to turn their attention to paragraphs 41 to 45 of the report [A/7840]. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the decisions referred to in those paragraphs.

*It was so decided.*

135. The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Finland in explanation of vote.

136. Mrs. SIPILÄ (Finland): The delegation of Finland abstained from voting on draft resolution VI for the following reasons.

137. Whilst we deeply appreciate the work and the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women, we understand that the rationalization of the work of the various functional commissions caused the Economic and Social Council to take its decision in favour of biennial meetings in every case except that of the Commission on Human Rights. We consider, also, that the value of the work of the Commission does not depend only on the frequency of its meetings; it also depends on the quality of the work which can be done both during the meetings and outside them, and on the possibility for the United Nations Secretariat to cope with the work caused by all requested studies and reports. It has to be realized also that the pressing needs are, apparently, mostly in the field of the implementation of the United Nations instruments, declarations and conventions and various resolutions which already exist.

138. Therefore, more should be done at this stage in the field of advisory services on human rights, and new methods should be found for assisting women really to

<sup>8</sup> See footnote 5.

participate more fully in the national and international development of the community. More attention should therefore be given to this question and a larger portion of the available funds should be allocated and reserved for that purpose. By that I mean, for instance, that in addition to the seminars we should have working groups and meetings of experts or teams of experts to evaluate the factual participation of women in the life of the community.

*Mr. Ogbu (Nigeria), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

139. The PRESIDENT: We shall now consider the report of the Third Committee on agenda items 59 and 60 [A/7841].

140. I shall now call on those representatives who wish to explain their votes on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee.

141. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus): I wish to comment briefly on draft resolution A recommended by the Third Committee [ibid., para. 33], I need not elaborate on the reasons why my delegation will cast an affirmative vote, for I did so before the Third Committee while introducing this draft resolution [1743rd meeting]. I shall therefore restrict my remarks to the following.

142. If there is a message that emerged clearly out of the great mobilization in the course of the International Year for Human Rights in 1968, it was the universal acknowledgement of the necessity of promoting human rights and protecting actively human dignity for all, irrespective of origin, irrespective of sex, irrespective of religion. Further, the message is clear that if we wish to entrench peace firmly in the world, that can be achieved only through liberty and justice, and that human rights are not a theoretical value but a *sine qua non* prerequisite for the achievement of that proud objective that is an imperative for mankind's existence.

143. If the International Year had a considerable impact on the hearts and minds of the peoples of the world, as our esteemed Secretary-General reports, then there is reason to rejoice. If a step has been taken in the right direction, if enthusiasm for human rights has been aroused, if the peoples of the world have better acquainted themselves with those values, then we can say that this has been a worthy endeavour. The results so far achieved through the International Year will be beneficial and lasting if the initiatives engendered and the groundwork laid are treated as a basis for continuous action in the years to come on both the national and the international levels. But, irrespective of what was achieved in 1968, the International Year will prove to be a success in the long run only if the measures and activities undertaken on that occasion are continued, further developed and enlarged. Only if the initiatives that emerged in 1968 serve as guidelines for programmes of meaningful action, and only then, shall we be able to speak of real success for the International Year. To achieve those objectives is truly the work of the Governments represented here today. That is why we wish to express the earnest and confident hope that all delegations—I would like to repeat, all delegations—will find it possible to cast an affirmative vote, thus ensuring that this important draft resolution is adopted unanimously.

144. The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now proceed to vote on the draft resolutions recommended by the Third Committee in paragraph 33 of its report [A/7841]. I have been informed that there is a request from the delegation of the United Kingdom for a separate vote on the word "genuinely" in paragraph 3 of draft resolution A. I therefore now put that word to the vote.

*The word "genuinely" was adopted by 60 votes to 24, with 22 abstentions.*

145. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will now vote on draft resolution A as a whole. A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Southern Yemen, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

*Against:* None.

*Abstaining:* Argentina,\* Colombia, Malawi, Portugal.

*Draft resolution A was adopted by 110 votes to none, with 4 abstentions [resolution 2588 A (XXIV)].*

146. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will now vote on draft resolution B. A recorded vote has been requested.

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Barbados, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, Congo (Brazzaville), Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran,

\* The delegation of Argentina subsequently informed the Secretariat that it wished to be recorded as having voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Southern Yemen, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

*Against:* Portugal.

*Abstaining:* Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

*Draft resolution B was adopted by 82 votes to 1, with 29 abstentions [resolution 2588 B (XXIV)].*

147. The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on the representative of Spain, who has expressed a desire to explain his vote.

148. Mr. FERNANDEZ LONGORIA (Spain) (*translated from Spanish*): My delegation voted for resolution B, as it did when the vote was taken in the Third Committee. As we stated then, however, we wish to express reservations as regards the scope of paragraph 6 of resolution B, which appeals to all States and organizations to provide appropriate assistance to peoples struggling for their freedom and independence.

149. My delegation, which upholds the principle of peaceful and negotiated settlements, considers that paragraph 6 could be interpreted as an invitation or incitation to violence. We therefore wish to record our reservations in this respect.

### AGENDA ITEM 57

**Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of *apartheid*, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories (*concluded*)\***

**(a) Measures for effectively combating racial discrimination and the policies of *apartheid* and segregation in southern Africa: report of the Secretary-General;**

**(b) Report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts on the treatment of political prisoners in South Africa: report of the Secretary-General**

### REPORT OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE (A/7826)

150. The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that the General Assembly, at its 1829th plenary meeting, adopted two resolutions under this item.

151. I now invite members to turn their attention to draft resolution II B, recommended for adoption by the Third Committee in paragraph 29 of its report [A/7826].

152. Before the Assembly votes, I should like to invite the attention of members to the note by the Secretary-General [A/7843] concerning paragraph 11 of draft resolution II B. The report of the Fifth Committee on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution is to be found in document A/7899.

153. The delegation of the USSR has requested a vote on paragraphs 11, 12 and 13. I put those paragraphs to the vote together.

*Paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 were adopted by 77 votes to 7, with 24 abstentions.*

154. The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly will now vote on draft resolution II B as a whole.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 86 votes to 2, with 21 abstentions [resolution 2547 B (XXIV)].*

155. The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Portugal for an explanation of vote.

156. Miss LOPEZ (Portugal) (*translated from French*): My delegation voted against draft resolution II B to uphold the position it has always taken on the points contained in it. It would like, however, to emphasize its position with regard to paragraph 11. My delegation cannot agree that a United Nations body should engage in propaganda against a Member State, since such action constitutes not only interference in the internal affairs of a Member State but also a regrettable attempt to induce a Secretariat body to abandon the impartiality required of it under the Charter. Furthermore, my delegation considers that this attitude goes beyond the competence of the General Assembly, which should only make recommendations in its resolutions and should never take any action against a Member State. This is a precedent which my delegation regrets and it reserves its right to make no contribution to the realization of the objectives mentioned in paragraph 11.

\* Resumed from the 1829th meeting.

*The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.*