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ended 30 June 1970, was in many respects the most difficult that the Agency has had in recent years, in fact in its whole history.

4. In his general report, as indeed in the first statement which he made in the Committee on 18 November 1970 [726th meeting], the Commissioner-General of the Agency considers that the Agency's present financial situation and, consequently, the conditions in which it functions are so serious and precarious that it is no exaggeration to say that the fate and especially the immediate future of its humanitarian work are seriously jeopardized. The desire to avoid any danger of the Agency's collapse, a desire confirmed by the appeal of the Chairman of the Special Political Committee [733rd meeting], was widely supported and endorsed by the members of the Committee. That was the basis of the realization of members of the Committee that special attention and priority in discussion should be given to the study of the material and financial situation of the Agency and its chronic crises.

5. The pledging conference for UNRWA held on 30 November 1970 was supposed to bring some relief and also new hope which might help to redress the situation. Unfortunately, as was pointed out so rightly by the Commissioner-General in his statement on 18 November, only a few members among an already small number of contributors announced their desire to make a further contribution to the humanitarian work of the Agency. The financial crisis therefore remains ever more threatening and the chances for the Agency's survival are even worse. The statement made on 2 December in the Committee by the Secretary-General [740th meeting] only confirmed all these apprehensions.

6. The Commissioner-General of the Agency is now in a very serious dilemma. He must either obtain new funds which would make it possible for the Agency to continue its humanitarian work or reduce the services of the Agency, which would exacerbate the already tragic lot of the refugees. A skilfully conceived approach by the delegation of Norway designed to overcome these difficulties appears in the draft resolution [A/8204, para. 6] which is before the General Assembly. The delegation of Turkey proposed that the statement made by the Secretary-General on 2 December should be transmitted verbatim to all the Governments of States Members of our Organizations, to the members of the specialized agencies and to the non-governmental organizations. Moreover, the delegation of Ghana suggested a sustained campaign, through the Office of Public Information, focusing on the role and activities of the Agency. If the financial

President: Mr. Edvard HAMBRO (Norway).

AGENDA ITEM 35

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East: report of the Commissioner-General

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE (PART I) (A/8204)

1. The PRESIDENT: This morning the Assembly will first consider an interim report of the Special Political Committee under agenda item 35, concerning the acute financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The report is reproduced in document A/8204.

2. Mr. MAHJOUBI (Morocco), Rapporteur of the Special Political Committee (*interpretation from French*): I should like briefly to introduce to the General Assembly the first part of the report relating to agenda item 35 [A/8204]. This part of the report is considered urgent because of the gravity of the situation.

3. Throughout the debate on this important item, which began on 18 November 1970, the Special Political Committee—on the basis of the annual report of the Commissioner General [A/8013] and other pertinent documents which it had before it—considered that the financial situation of the Agency was very serious and, indeed, would inevitably further compromise its already precarious activities. As appears clearly from the seventh annual report of the Agency, the past year,

crisis continues to constitute a danger, or if it gets worse, the Jordan delegation, supported by other delegations, suggests the holding of a special, urgent session to study specifically the financial problems facing the Agency.

7. Those suggestions could, however, be deferred for further consideration and study in the working group provided for under the draft resolution.

Pursuant to rule 68 of the rules of procedure, it was decided not to discuss the report of the Special Political Committee.

8. The PRESIDENT: Since no delegation has asked to be allowed to explain its vote, the Assembly will now proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political Committee as a matter of urgency in paragraph 6 of its interim report [A/8204].

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 2656 (XXV)).

9. Operative paragraph 2 of the resolution just adopted requests the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to designate the Member States which will compose the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Negotiations on this matter have already started. I have consulted the Secretary-General and I hope to make an announcement on the membership of the working Group in the course of this morning's meeting. If not this morning, I shall certainly do so this afternoon.

AGENDA ITEM 43

United Nations Conference on the Human Environment: report of the Secretary-General

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/8195)

AGENDA ITEM 95

The role of modern science and technology in the development of nations and the need to strengthen economic and technico-scientific co-operation among States

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (A/8197)

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE (PART I) (A/8203)

10. The PRESIDENT: I request the Rapporteur of the Second Committee, Mr. Verceles of the Philippines, to present in one intervention the three reports on the items now before the Assembly.

11. Mr. VERCELES (Philippines), Rapporteur of the Second Committee: I have the honour to present the

reports of the Second Committee on agenda items 43 [A/8195], 95 [A/8197] and 12 [A/8203].

12. The General Assembly, at its 1843rd plenary meeting on 18 September 1970, allocated these agenda items to the Second Committee.

13. The Committee took up the item on the human environment in four meetings, which commenced with an introductory statement by the newly appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Mr. Maurice Strong. The documents before the Committee on this subject were the note and report of the Secretary-General, the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its first session and the relevant part of the report of the Economic and Social Council to the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

14. One draft resolution on this item was considered by the Committee. It was orally revised and amended and the text as adopted is contained in paragraph 12 of the Committee's report.

15. The salient points of the draft resolution would have the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to convene the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment from 8 to 19 February 1971 and from 13 to 24 September 1971 in Geneva and New York, respectively; recommend the inclusion in the agenda of the forthcoming sessions of the Preparatory Committee of items relating to economic and social aspects as they affect the environmental policies and development plans of developing countries; and recommend that the Preparatory Committee consider, *inter alia*, in its preparations for the Conference, the financing of possible activities for the protection of the human environment of developing countries.

16. The inclusion of item 95 relating to the role of modern science and technology in national development was proposed by the delegation of Romania. The Committee considered the subject in three meetings.

17. The essential features of the draft resolution appearing in paragraph 11 of the report [A/8197] would have the General Assembly call upon Governments to give due attention to the promotion of science and technology and encourage international technical and scientific co-operation for accelerated economic and social development, especially in developing countries; invite the organizations and agencies within the United Nations system—both principal and subsidiary—to take appropriate steps to help achieve these ends; and request the Secretary-General to prepare a multi-faceted study on international scientific and technical co-operation for economic and social development, which study is to be considered during the first biennial review in 1973 of the implementation of the international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

18. Part I of the report of the Second Committee on item 12 [A/8203] relates to the feasibility of the creation of an international corps of volunteers. The draft resolution is to be found in paragraph 8 of the report. It would have the Assembly decide on the establishment of United Nations volunteers effective 1 January 1971; request the Secretary-General to designate the administrator of the United Nations Development Programme as administrator of the international volunteer corps and appoint the co-ordinator of these volunteers in consultation with the UNDP administrator; and invite Governments and interested organizations to contribute to a special voluntary fund for the support of the activities of the volunteers.

19. The draft resolution on the United Nations volunteers is the first of seven substantive resolutions adopted by the Second Committee concerning the report of the Economic and Social Council. The six other draft resolutions, as well as other draft decisions and recommendations adopted by the Committee pertaining to this agenda item, will be contained in part II of the Committee's report [A/8203/Add.1].

20. It is my privilege to recommend the adoption by the plenary General Assembly of the draft resolutions to which I have referred.

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

21. The PRESIDENT: I invite members to turn their attention first to the report of the Second Committee on item 43 [A/8195]. Since no delegation wishes to explain its vote, the Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 12 of the report. The financial implications arising out of the draft resolution are set forth in document A/8196.

22. A separate vote has been requested on operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution. Is there any objection to a separate vote on that paragraph? I call on the representative of Brazil.

23. Mr. BRITO (Brazil): In view of the request made for a separate vote on operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee, my delegation finds that its duty is to request formally that that vote be a roll-call vote so that the responsibility of each of us on a subject which so deeply affects the development interests of the developing countries can be officially registered. Environmental policies without a clear definition of financial responsibilities in terms of additional aid would be a futile and meaningless exercise or, even worse, a means of upsetting the development priorities of developing countries.

24. I do hope that an overwhelming majority of delegations will reject this last-minute attempt to erase from the draft its more positive and conclusive provisions in so far as the interests of the developing countries are concerned. I hope also that those who have shown a growing interest in ensuring that United

Nations activities in the field of the protection of the environment shall be conducted on the basis of universal support fully realize that if operative paragraph 3 were deleted, the possibilities of co-operation from developing countries would be critically affected.

25. This is not a simple vote. It is a major policy decision, on the basis of which the developing countries will be able to measure the degree of truth contained in the statement that environmental policies will be defined in the context of development.

26. The PRESIDENT: I understand that that intervention did not constitute opposition to a separate vote but was only a demand for a roll-call. Hence there does not seem to be any objection to a separate vote, and a separate vote will be taken. At the request of the delegation of Brazil it will be a vote by roll-call.

A vote was taken by roll-call.

Bulgaria, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chile, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Southern Yemen, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Afghanistan, Barbados, Brazil.

Against: Canada, France, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Australia, Belgium.

Abstaining: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Argentina, Austria.

Operative paragraph 3 was adopted by 58 votes to 10, with 28 abstentions.

The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 86 votes to none, with 10 abstentions (resolution 2657 (XXV)).

27. The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on delegations that have expressed the desire to explain their votes after the vote.

28. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): The USSR delegation abstained in the voting on the draft resolu-

tion concerning the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment for the following reasons.

29. The eighth preambular paragraph, in which an attempt is made to link the problem of the human environment with the international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade [*resolution 2626 (XXV)*], is contrary to the position of the eight socialist States set forth in their joint statement of 21 September 1970 on the second development decade and social progress [*A/8074*].

30. Operative paragraph 3 of that resolution is also at variance with the statement of the socialist countries. In that connexion I should like to remind the Assembly that the delegation of the *USSR*, together with the delegation of other socialist countries, supports the document on the international development strategy to the extent that that document is in accordance with the position of the socialist countries as set forth in the statement of 21 September 1970 to which I have just referred. This reservation on behalf of the socialist countries was made at the 1871st plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 17 October of this year.

31. Mr. PELL (United States of America): We all agree on the importance not only of preserving the quality of our environment, be it on land, in the sea or in the air, but also of restoring its quality in those areas where man has already degraded it.

32. As an issue and an interest, it concerns men everywhere. We read about it, we hear about it—yes, here in New York City we smell it. But when it comes to action, we tend to talk and talk. That is why we whole-heartedly—yes, whole-lungedly—support the Stockholm Conference and believe that we should move ahead with its preparations as fast as we can. We congratulate Sweden, too, on its initiative in this field.

33. We welcomed the plan of action which was presented by the newly appointed Secretary-General of the Stockholm Conference, Mr. Maurice Strong, to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference last month, particularly his idea that the Conference should be structured on three separate levels: the intellectual conceptual level, the production of an action plan to constitute a work programme for the coming years, and the identification of those few but important items on which action can be completed by the time of the Conference. We have stressed the need to proceed immediately with this course of action, particularly the first level, which will help to identify those topics on the Conference agenda which lend themselves to specific action.

34. We are pleased to note that the Secretariat proposes to publish in the coming weeks a progress report commenting on the key items that have been proposed for the agenda of the Conference. We agree that it is a proper function of the Secretariat to contribute and organize agenda items for the Conference. We also believe that the greatest progress will be made in determining topics of highest priority if Member nations provide their views to the Secretariat without delay.

35. My Government has been actively engaged during the past months in identifying suitable topics for action at the Stockholm Conference. Ambassador Yost mentioned a few of these during his statement in the General debate at the opening of the current session of the General Assembly [*1854th meeting*]. We presented a more comprehensive list of suggested topics last week to Mr. Strong, and we hope that it will be the subject of careful study during the forthcoming second session of the Preparatory Committee.

36. I do not wish to take up the time of the General Assembly with the details of this list, but I should like to mention its broad outlines, because I believe that it will make clear how we would see the time of the Conference best spent, and because I think that it will have a direct bearing on an understanding of my Government's position on the resolution which we have just adopted. We believe that the general issues of the Conference fall into three categories.

37. The first is the acquisition, dissemination and use of knowledge. This category provides for an over-view of those issues which require combined national, regional and international consideration. Here, actions taken would be largely technical rather than policy-oriented. Much of this work would involve the collection and exchange of information, research and analysis, interpretation of data, and information and education programmes.

38. The second category comprises national policies, institutions and actions of international significance. This category provides a means for improving the environment through actions which can be taken only by Governments in the common interest. Items would include co-ordinated planning and systems analysis in national and regional economic development programmes, including the management of resources for maximum benefit at the least social and economic cost; control of ocean dumping, pesticides, air pollution and river basin management; incentives for developing countries, and the role of developed countries' economic assistance programmes.

39. The third category covers policies and action for regional and international organizations. This category involves the supranational actions which could be taken to strengthen environmental programmes. Potential items include the declaration on the human environment, conservation of ocean resources and control of the pollution of the atmosphere and oceans; means for including environmental considerations in the policies of international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and the roles of various international organizations in the environmental area; means for rationalizing international trade and environmental protection, and for preventing the costs of environmental protection from providing unfair advantages in trade.

40. The foregoing listing will give members of the Assembly some idea of the broad lines of my Government's thinking on the subject matter for the Confer-

ence agenda. I should now like to comment more specifically on the resolution itself.

41. We followed with interest and appreciated the initiative taken by the Swedish delegation to move an appropriately procedural draft resolution through the Second Committee. My delegation considered sympathetically the three substantive paragraphs reflecting the particular concerns of several developing countries as to the proper relationship between environmental policies and economic and social development, which were incorporated into the original draft resolution by the co-sponsors. We lent our support to the inclusion of these paragraphs in what was essentially a procedural draft resolution, despite the fact that, in its revised form, the draft resolution appeared to us to be somewhat unbalanced, because of our conviction that development and environmental concerns not only are complementary but often must be recognized as being identical. We also wished to dispel the fears expressed by some developing countries that the agenda for the Stockholm Conference would not place sufficient emphasis on their particular interests.

42. However, my delegation voted against the amendment proposed by the delegations of Brazil, Ceylon, Chile, Nigeria and Sudan, which, despite the negative votes of twenty-two members of the Second Committee, was adopted and became operative paragraph 3 of the final text. We particularly objected to the introduction at the last moment, shortly before the Committee was to proceed to the vote, of a new substantive amendment, the nature of which had far-reaching implications and which introduced new subject matter which the delegations did not have time to consider carefully.

43. I do not wish to comment now on the substance of paragraph 3. It will, of course, be the subject of consideration at the February meeting of the Preparatory Committee. However, I do wish to make it clear that my delegation still considers that the inclusion of this paragraph in the resolution is inappropriate and that it further distorts the carefully balanced proportions of the original draft.

44. In the separate vote in this plenary meeting my delegation also voted against the retention of operative paragraph 3 in the resolution. Our support for the resolution as a whole, therefore, must not be construed as a commitment by my Government as to any subsequent action that may be taken on the substance of the paragraph. I believe that the list of agenda items which I mentioned earlier will demonstrate my Government's recognition of the need to have a thorough airing of matters involving the environment that developing countries consider of primary importance to them.

45. We also believe that the consideration of the matters mentioned in operative paragraph 3 would have been ensured by the wording of operative paragraph 2. We therefore see no reason why financial aspects should have been singled out as they have been, when there are so many other aspects of interest to both developing and developed countries which could have

been listed in the resolution had the intent of the co-sponsors been to draft a substantive resolution.

46. I hope that those comments on my Government's position on the resolution will not obscure the fact that we are proceeding with all vigour and the resources available to us to make the Stockholm Conference a resounding success.

47. If there is one topic that binds men together rather than cleaving them asunder it is a concern for the integrity of our environment. It is a fitting and vital subject for our United Nations to tackle, and the United States for one will do its best to end the present erosion and degradation of our environment.

48. Mr. RYDBECK (Sweden): The delegations of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden would have hoped that a separate vote would not be taken on operative paragraph 3 of the resolution just adopted. However, a separate vote was asked for and was taken. On behalf of the four delegations I wish to make the following explanation of our vote.

49. In the debates in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, many delegations representing both developed and developing countries have emphasized the importance of considering policies in the environmental field as an integral part of the planning for economic and social development everywhere. This thinking has been reflected in the relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, including the one now adopted by the Assembly, and in the report of the Preparatory Committee on its first session.

50. The Secretary-General of the 1972 Conference, Mr. Maurice Strong, has stated on several occasions that the question of the relationship between action in the environmental field and the process of economic and social development will be thoroughly considered in the further preparations for the Conference.

51. The four Nordic delegations hope that it will be possible during the preparations for the conference to find ways and means to enable the developing countries, through an exchange of knowledge and experience and through various forms of assistance, both to deal with some of their serious existing environmental problems and to avoid those accompanying development. It is very encouraging that several industrialized countries have already offered assistance to developing countries in their preparatory work for the Conference.

52. In giving this short general background, I have wished to place the question of operative paragraph 3 in its proper perspective. In the Second Committee the four Nordic delegations voted against the paragraph for two basic reasons. First, the text of the paragraph was proposed in the Committee at a very late stage, when the informal consultations concerning the draft resolution were already concluded. Second, the question raised in the paragraph is premature, in view of the fact that it is not yet known what measures in

the environmental field of more specific concern to the developing countries will be proposed at the Conference. Only when the nature of such proposed measures is known will it be possible to consider by what means they should be carried out and to decide the forms and extent of the financial and technical assistance to developing countries that will be required.

53. In the General Assembly the four Nordic delegations have chosen to abstain on this paragraph. In so doing they wish to make it clear that, while maintaining their hesitations regarding the paragraph in question, they in no way oppose the concept of rendering financial and technical assistance to developing countries in this field.

54. The PRESIDENT: We will now turn to the report of the Second Committee on item 95 [A/8197].

55. As no representative has asked to explain his vote before the vote, the Assembly will proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 11 of its report. In the Committee the draft resolution was adopted without objection. If I hear no objection, may I consider that the General Assembly adopts the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 2658 (XXV)).

56. We will now turn our attention to document A/8203, which contains the first part of the report of the Second Committee on agenda item 12, concerning certain parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

57. The delegation of Iran would like to explain its vote before the vote.

58. Her Royal Highness Princess Ashraf PAHLAVI (Iran) (*interpretation from French*): The idea of creating an international organization which would be entrusted with mobilizing the widespread desires of millions of young people who are eager to make their unselfish services available for the benefit of mankind has already been familiar to idealists and philanthropists of all countries. As was recalled even more precisely by the representative of the Netherlands in the Second Committee, the idea has always had its advocates, but the seed that was waiting, so to speak, in the earth could not germinate unless all favourable conditions for its blooming were met.

59. What was required was that an inspired and perspicacious head of State should take the question in hand with sincerity and determination, so that the process could be speeded up. On 13 June 1968, the Shahinshah of Iran made the speech with which the Assembly is familiar, at Harvard University, proposing the creation of a legion of volunteers in the service of mankind. He then called upon the delegation of Iran at the twenty-third session of the Assembly to put this

matter before the United Nations.¹ In the course of the two years that followed this initiative, the idea that at first glance had seemed Utopian to many countries made considerable headway, although not without difficulty, and finally it has taken shape in the form in which it will emerge today from this Assembly.

60. Accordingly, at the very moment when we launch the Second United Nations Development Decade, that is to say, precisely on 1 January 1971, another movement will be born to place the vast, still untapped energies of the youth of the world at the service of human progress in ever-increasing proportions and in new forms.

61. I know that the enthusiasm of the young people and of a great many of the countries that have given their support to the creation of the United Nations volunteer corps is still not fully shared by those delegations which abstained in the course of the vote in the Second Committee. But if we look closely at the reservations that were expressed, of necessary we must admit that they hardly ever relate to the principle of the utilization and organization of volunteer work on a worldwide scale.

62. The reservations actually constitute conditions which according to their authors should be respected if the project is really to become an effective and original tool in the service of harmonized world-wide development.

63. Among those conditions there are some which are essential to the success of the operation and which my delegation, for its part, has wished to bring out. To mention only the most important, I will say that it is necessary to give this new corps a multinational character. It should be organized in such a way that it is ensured of the participation of both international and national volunteers. Existing volunteer organizations and programmes should be interested in it and it should be set up on as broad and varied a geographical base as possible. Above all, it should be set up as a multilateral movement between developing countries, and not a unilateral flow of volunteers from developed countries to the countries of the third world. The services of volunteers should be used with absolute respect for national sovereignties. Their recruitment and their functions should be kept under very strict control and nothing should be done which would in any way place them in competition with indigenous workers or volunteers. Lastly, and, most important of all, we should increase governments in the programme so that they can provide the necessary funds for the departments that will assume responsibility for the programme.

64. Other points have been mentioned which fall in a different category of importance, which I would describe as the operational category. This applies, for example, particularly to the way in which the activities will be conceived, planned and administered. We have said, for our part, to what a considerable extent the success of the United Nations volunteer corps will

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly Twenty-third Session, Annexes*, agenda item 12, document A/7426, para. 17 to 19.

depend on the active participation of youth in all phases of the operation. It will depend on management that is completely free of bureaucratic methods and it must be very flexible, expeditious and endowed with a creative spirit in its day-to-day activities. In this connexion we have already indicated that it seems to us very important to be able to use the experience acquired both by the existing volunteer organizations and by those of the United Nations in using experts associated in their work.

65. If we examine carefully the aspects of the draft resolution [A/8204, para. 8] to which reservations were expressed, we realize that they should not be a source of major concern, if the conditions on which everyone seems to agree are met, as we all hope, in the course of the execution of the programme.

66. It is therefore important that these conditions—and many others which were mentioned in the course of the discussion in the Committee—should be met so that the United Nations volunteer corps movement may come ever closer to the ideal of the youth of the world for increasing participation in progress.

67. For the same reason the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, who will have the very heavy responsibility of launching this movement, should devote particular attention to the choice of the person to be co-ordinator of the programme. He not only should possess the experience and the administrative qualities that are required, but also should be endowed with a great sense of creativity and enjoy the confidence of the volunteers, while at the same time exercising the necessary authority over them.

68. At a time when we have just offered this gift to the United Nations on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary, may I be permitted to read out once again the last part of the statement made by His Majesty at Harvard two years ago:

“Since Imperial Roman times, many legions have been formed for the purpose of military conquest. Let us, for once, create an international legion for the purpose of gaining victory in the fight against the real enemies of humanity; that is, against poverty, hunger and social injustice in any form. Let future history bear witness to the fact that the

moral power of the servitor of humanity is greater, and more lasting, than the force of any army and the energy of any destructive device. Let those who wish to devote themselves to the service of humanity gather together and make the voice of selfless service reach the ears of hundreds of millions of their shelterless, despondent brothers and sisters throughout the world. In the depressing darkness of discriminations, oppressions and unscrupulous, ruthless calculations, let this legion be the torchbearer of selflessness and benevolence. Let this legion give objective reality to the great words of the great classical Persian poet Sa'di, when he wrote: ‘If thou hast no sympathy for the troubles of others, thou art unworthy to be called by the name of man.’”²

69. I hope with all my heart that by casting an overwhelming vote in favour of the establishment of the United Nations volunteer corps the General Assembly will launch the corps in a style befitting this new type of movement; the integration of the corps in the plans for the Second Development Decade will make it possible for the vast reservoir of youthful energies which have been underutilized to be placed at the service of the development of the world.

70. Mr. RAZAFIMBELO (Madagascar) (*interpretation from French*): My Government recognizes the importance of the active participation of young people in economic and social development, but my delegation will adopt in the General Assembly the position it adopted when the question of the possibilities of creating an international volunteer corps was carefully examined in the Second Committee: we shall abstain in the vote on the draft resolution, because we consider that this question is not yet sufficiently clear.

71. The PRESIDENT: Since no other representative has expressed a desire to explain his vote, the Assembly will now proceed to vote on the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report [A/8203].

The draft resolution was adopted by 91 votes to none, with 12 abstentions (resolution 2659 (XXV)).

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

² Quoted in English by the speaker.