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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT ON RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY AND OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL OF CONCERN TO  
THE COMMISSION

The purpose of this note is to bring to the attention of the Commission various resolutions - or their operative parts - which are related to its work and have been adopted by the General Assembly at its fourteenth session and by the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions.<sup>1/</sup>

(I) Resolutions brought to the attention of the Commission for its consideration

(A) Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fourteenth session.

Resolution 1407 (XIV) - Construction of the United Nations building in Santiago, Chile.<sup>2/</sup> This resolution authorizes the Secretary-General to proceed with the preparation of plans, and the construction of the United Nations building in Santiago, Chile, at a cost not to exceed 1,550,000 dollars. An account of the progress made will be found in the relevant report by the Secretariat (E/CN.12/AC.45/6).

Resolution 1422 (XIV) - Development of international trade and international commodity problems. This resolution deals with the harm done by the "excessive instability of commodity prices" and recommends that the regional economic commissions, inter alia, "give particular attention to the problems of countries dependent to a high degree on the export of a small number of primary commodities".

The Commission has always shown great interest in this problem, and the Secretariat's work in the field of trade has been a direct result of this interest (see E/CN.12/AC.45/6).

Resolution 1426 (XIV) Agrarian reform. Operative paragraph 2 of this resolution requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the regional commissions, FAO and Governments to consider ways in which the United Nations can give its support to land reform programmes and to examine the results of such programmes and the effects which they have had on economic development. A special report to the General Assembly, as well as to the Economic and Social Council, is called for in 1962. An inter-agency working group is scheduled for April 1960 in Rome, to work out

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<sup>1/</sup> The text of these resolutions is reproduced in Information document N° 1.

<sup>2/</sup> General Assembly resolution 1407 (XIV) is brought to the Commission's attention in connexion with item 9 of the provisional agenda.

detailed arrangements for co-operation between the United Nations Secretariat, FAO and other specialized agencies.

In this connexion, it is interesting to note that the Central American Economic Co-operation Committee in its resolution 94 (CCE), has requested a study on land tenure and existing conditions of agricultural labour in Central America. Progress is being made in organizing a joint mission to carry out this study, with the co-operation of the ILO, FAO, the Higher Council of Central American Universities, the Latin American Centre for Research in the Social Sciences at Rio de Janeiro and the University of Costa Rica, as well as an expert from the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations.

Resolution 1430 (XIV) - Latin American Common Market. Operative paragraph 3 of this resolution "Recommends that the Economic Commission for Latin America should continue to assign high priority to the work being done in this field".

It will be seen from the progress report by the Secretariat (E/CN.12/AC.45/2) and from the report on the common market and payments problems (E/CN.12/AC.45/3) that the highest priority continues to be given to the common market. A full account of the earlier work may be found in The Latin American Common Market (United Nations Publication, sales N° 59.II.G.4).

Resolution 1431 (XIV) - Commission for Industrial Development. In this resolution the General Assembly recommends that the Economic and Social Council consider establishing promptly a "commission for industrial development, without prejudicing the activities of the regional economic commissions in this connexion..." In the preamble the General Assembly notes "with appreciation the activities of the United Nations regional economic commissions in the field of economic growth and industrialization in their respective regions".

Resolution 1449 (XIV) - Budget estimates for the financial year 1960. This resolution, adopted on the report of the Fifth Committee, expresses the Assembly's desire to keep to a minimum the additions to the work programme that have budgetary implications beyond those included in the

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regular budget. In this operative paragraph it "requests all organs of the United Nations to consider ways and means" of deferring new projects until they can be provided for in the budget estimates for the subsequent year "unless they are of major and urgent importance or unless they can be accommodated within the approved expenditure levels by the postponement of projects of relatively low priority".

Resolution 1462 (XIV) - Report on educational conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this resolution the General Assembly approved the report on educational conditions, prepared in 1959 by the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and invited the Secretary General to transmit this report to the regional economic commissions, among others, for their consideration. The report is available in the Secretariat's files for consultation by delegations.

(B) Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council, at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions.<sup>3/</sup>

Resolution 708 (XXVII) International commercial arbitration. Operative paragraph 4 of this resolution recommends that the regional economic commissions "which have not as yet included such a project in their programme of work" consider undertaking a study on this subject.

Resolution 709 (XXVII) - Economic Development of under-developed countries: Industrialization. Part A of this resolution requests the regional economic commissions to consider including in their work programmes "seminars and symposia on specific topics designed to further the purposes of the industrialization programme of the United Nations". The resolution also requests the Secretary-General, in operative paragraph 4, to take into account the work undertaken by the regional commissions in studies on methods of programming or planning industrialization. Emphasis is also placed on the desirability of organizing national and regional seminars, consultations and training centres in the field of industrialization. Operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part B of the resolution refer to the help given by the regional commissions in efforts towards economic integration and "the gradual diversification of..... economic activities",

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<sup>3/</sup> Part II of resolution 742 (XXVIII) is specifically brought to the attention of the Commission under item 11 (b) of the provisional agenda.

and recommend that the regional economic commissions, among others, assign a high priority in their work programmes to assistance to countries seeking to diversify their exports.

The Secretariat's work in connexion with the proposed Latin American common market necessarily deals with different aspects of industrialization and diversification of exports. Problems of training manpower to meet the demands of growing industrialization continue to concern the Commission, as indicated in resolution 149 (VIII) (see E/CN.12/AC.45/2, section C). Moreover, resolution 162 (VIII) called for panels of experts to be convened for specific basic industries, and the Commission's interest in industrial questions has been shown in the past by the holding of meetings of experts on the basic iron and steel industry (Bogotá 1952), the pulp and paper industry (Buenos Aires 1954) and the steel making and transforming industries. (Sao Paulo 1956). Plans are now being made to hold a seminar on the electric power industry in January 1961 (see E/CN.12/AC.45/2, section B).

Resolution 710 B (XXVII) Economic development of under-developed countries: Sources of energy. This resolution reaffirms the importance the Council attaches to energy, both conventional and non-conventional as an essential factor in economic development. It requests the Secretary-General to "develop a methodology for the appraisal of energy resources on a usefully comparable basis on the national, the regional or other appropriate level", and calls for the holding of seminars at the regional "or other appropriate" level on the economic problems involved in the development of energy resources (see E/CN.12/AC.45/2, section B).

Resolution 723 C (XXVIII) - Annual report of the Economic Commission for Latin America. The Economic and Social Council approved the amendments to the Commission's terms of reference that had been suggested by the Commission at its eighth session as follows: "(a) To insert the following sub-paragraph (f) in paragraph 1":

"(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationships of the economic and social factors."

/and "(b)

and "(b) To insert the following provision in paragraph 8":

"The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and co-operation with other regional economic commissions, in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly."

Resolution 724 A (XXVIII) - Report of the Transport and Communications Commission - Operative paragraph 2 of this resolution approves the suggestions contained in the report of the Commission regarding the future arrangements for handling the remaining activities hitherto performed by the Commission, and operative paragraph 3 contains the decision to terminate the Commission. In doing so, the Council transfers its residual activities "as appropriate" to the Council "and to its regional commissions". In view of this transfer the last report of the Transport and Communications Commission (E/3264) is brought to the attention of the Commission. Part V of this report contains the suggestions for future arrangements and Part III indicates the subjects that are "primarily regional in scope". These subjects are included in the Commission's normal work and are thus reported in its annual reports to the Council.

Resolution 731 B (XXVIII) - Long-range programme of concerted international action in the field of housing. Operative paragraph 3 of this resolution invites the regional economic commissions, among others, to review the long-range programme and "to make provision for full participation in the proposed concerted action". The Secretary-General is requested to report to the Council at its thirtieth session (summer 1960) on "specific" projects that have been planned. This report by the Secretary-General would have to include an account of the action taken by ECLA.

There has been a long-standing arrangement between the Commission and the Organization of American States whereby the Pan American Union, as the Secretariat of the OAS, assists the United Nations in carrying out the international programme in housing, building and planning. The Central American Economic Co-operation Committee, recently set up a sub-committee on Housing, Building, and Planning, which held its first session in October 1958 ( see E/3246/Rev.2, paragraph 26). Pursuant to the resolutions adopted at this session and ratified at the sixth session of the Economic Co-operation Committee, preparations have been advanced for the

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joint mission which, with the co-operation of the OAS and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, will study matters connected with the integration of the Central American countries' efforts in respect of housing, building and planning.

Resolution 735 (XXVIII) - Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance:

Country programming procedures. This resolution contains a decision to the effect that the Expanded Programme is to be planned for a two-year period for the years 1961-1962 "on an experimental basis". This may be of interest to the Commission as it applies also to the planning of regional projects in which the regional economic commissions have played a part for a number of years. A report on technical assistance activities in the ECLA region has been submitted to the Committee of the Whole at its current session (E/CN.12/AC.45/5).

Resolution 741 (XXVIII) - Evaluation of techniques of long-term economic projections. This resolution requests the Secretary-General to undertake an evaluation of techniques of long-term economic projections and asks him to submit a summary account to the Council at its thirtieth session (summer 1960). The request, in operative paragraph 2, covers techniques used in the subsidiary bodies, which includes the regional economic commissions.

Since its inception the Commission has shown a keen interest in programming techniques and long-term economic projections, which has resulted in the Secretariat's publications on the subject. These include the entire series entitled "Analyses and projections of economic development" (Volume I, An Introduction to the Technique of Programming; and successive volumes on Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Panamá and Perú).

Resolution 742 (XXVIII) - Concentration of activities of the United Nations in economic, social and human rights fields, and control and limitation of documentation. Part I of this resolution contains two requests to the Council's subsidiary bodies including the regional economic commissions, namely, that existing studies or publications be utilized and that the Secretariat's time schedule for the completion of studies be accepted wherever possible. (The Commission might be advised to take note of these requests in its report to the Council). Both operative paragraphs 3 and 4

/should be

should be considered against the background of the Council's activities over several years to effect co-ordination. In paragraph 3 the Council requests the subsidiary bodies, including the regional commissions, to make the fullest possible use of existing studies before, or instead of, asking for new ones. Paragraph 4 allows the Secretariat to exercise its discretion in connexion with the time table for the completion of studies.

Part II deals with the control and limitation of documentation. Operative paragraph I in effect constitutes a request to the Council's subsidiary bodies to consider the "control and limitation of documentation" at each session.

The Annex to the resolution deals with the different chapters of the Secretary-General's streamlining report (E/3274), and paragraph 4 refers specifically to regional economic activities. Paragraph 2 again expresses the hope that the fullest use will be made of public and private research institutions.

At its recent sessions the Commission has had before it notes by the secretariat on the efforts made to control and limit documentation (see E/CN.12/AC.45/11).

Resolution 743 A (XXVIII) - Concerted action. This resolution notes, inter alia, that the Water Resources Development Centre "has become the focal point for concerted action among United Nations agencies in the field of water resources". In operative paragraph 3, "the competent United Nations agencies and bodies" are invited to inform the Water Centre regularly "of requests that may be received from Member States in respect of the development of their water resources". The regional economic commissions are of course included among the competent United Nations bodies.

The Secretariat's work in connexion with water resources was described in detail in the last annual report (E/3246/Rev.2 - E/CN.12/530/Rev.2, annex VII, paragraphs 120 to 126). Moreover, discussions have been held with the Water Resources Development Centre concerning requests for future water resources missions in Latin America.

Resolution 743 B (XXVIII) - Peaceful uses of atomic energy. This resolution, in operative paragraph 2, expresses the hope that "the organizations concerned will continue their endeavours to implement the arrangements for practical co-operation foreshadowed in the relationship agreements". One of the "organizations concerned" is the United Nations, and therefore the injunction could in certain circumstances apply to its various bodies including the regional economic commissions.

Resolution 743 D (XXVIII) - Programme appraisals for the period 1959 to 1964. In Part I of this resolution the Council notes with appreciation the Secretary-General's appraisal (E/3260 and Add. 1 and 2), which includes the sections on the regional commissions, and authorizes the Secretary-General, "after making such changes as may seem advisable in the light of the comments in the debates and the resolution adopted during the twenty-eighth session of the Council", to submit the revised report to the Council's Committee of Five by 1 December 1959.

(II) Resolutions of possible interest to the Commission

(A) Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fourteenth session

Resolution 1383 (XIV) - Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance

Resolution 1385 (XIV) - United Nations assistance in public administration

Resolution 1392 (XIV) - Interrelationship of the economic and social factor of development

Resolution 1393 (XIV) - Low cost housing

Resolution 1420 (XIV) - International Development Association

Resolution 1421 (XIV) - The strengthening and development of the world market and the improvement of the trade conditions of the economically less developed countries

Resolution 1423 (XIV) - International measures to assist in offsetting fluctuations in commodity prices

Resolution 1424 (XIV) - United Nations Capital Development Fund

Resolution 1425 (XIV) - Possibilities of international cooperation in the field of the development of the petroleum industry in the under-developed countries

Resolution 1427 (XIV) - Industrial development banks and development corporations

/Resolution 1428

Resolution 1428 (XIV) - World economic development

Resolution 1429 (XIV) - Development of scientific and technical co-operation and exchange of experience

(B) Resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council, at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions

Resolution 711 (XXVII) - Economic development of under-developed countries: Industrialization and energy

Resolution 712 (XXVII) - Economic development of under-developed countries: Land reform

Resolution 721 (XXVII) - Report of the Population Commission

Resolution 724 C (XXVIII) - International transport of dangerous goods

Resolution 727 A (XXVIII) - United Nations measures for promoting international exchange of scientific and technical experience

Resolution 740 B (XXVIII) - Economic development of under-developed countries

Resolution 740 C (XXVIII) - Economic development of under-developed countries