ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

FIRST SESSION

Summary Records

First to Thirteenth Meetings
29 December 1958 to 6 January 1959

These records include the corrections to the provisional summary records as requested by delegations. For a summary account of the proceedings, see the Report of the First Session of the Commission (E/CN.14/18), Part II. A full list of representatives attending the session is given in Appendix VI of the Report. Reference may also be made to the Agenda of the Session adopted at its first meeting (E/CN.14/2/Rev.1) and to the list of documents issued for the Session (E/CN.14/17).

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

First session

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE FIRST TO THIRTEENTH MEETINGS

held at the Parliament Building,

Addis Ababa, from 29 December 1958 to 6 January 1959

Present:

Chairman: Mr. ABEBE RETTE (Ethiopia)

Members:

Mr. van ROS Belgium
Mr. MAASEB LEMMA (Ethiopia)
Mr. MIKAIL IMRU
Mr. TRSFAY GEERE-EGZI (Ethiopia)
Mr. GEORGES-PICOT France
Mr. QUAIHDOO
Mr. LEWIS Ghana
Mr. TOURE Guinea
Mr. RETTIOL
Mr. RIZZETTO Italy
Mr. ROMITA
Mr. MORRIS
Miss BROOKS Liberia
Mr. DOE
Mr. BEN KATU Libya
Mr. QASEM
Mr. BEN KIRANE Morocco
Mr. EL NIMJURA

1/ Mr. Mekki ABBAS, Executive Secretary, served as Acting Chairman at the first meeting before the election of Chairman.
Members: (continued)

Mr. ABECASSIS  Portugal
Mr. NOGUEIRA

Mr. IBANEZ  Spain

Mr. KHEIR
Mr. BEHEIRY

Mr. SLIM  Tunisia

Mr. SHIATI  United Arab Republic

Mr. PROFUMO
Mr. WRIGHT
Mr. GALSOWTHY  United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Associate Members:

Chief OKOTIE-EBOH  Federation of Nigeria
Mr. STAPLETON

Mr. KAREFA-SMART  Gambia and Sierra Leone

Mr. MADAN  Kenya and Zanzibar

Mr. WALLACE  Somaliland Protectorate

Mr. HASSAN
Mr. ADDAWE  Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration

Mr. FLETCHER-COKE  Tanganyika

Mr. MELMOTH  Uganda

Observers for Governments of Members of the United Nations not members of the Commission:

Mr. SINGER  Austria
Mr. de CARVALHO  Brazil
Mr. KOBAKOV  Bulgaria
Mr. CHENG PAO-NAN  China
Observers (continued)

Mr. VRLA
Mr. YPSILANTI
Mr. SUIJARTO
Mr. ZAMAN
Mr. BAR-ON
Mr. YOSHIMURA
Mr. WALRAVEN
Mr. AKBAR KHAN
Mr. KRAJEWISKI
Mr. SOMEL
Mr. TIMOSHCHENKO
Mr. KOTSCHNIG
Mr. BARISIC

Czechoslovakia
Greece
Hungary
India
Israel
Japan
Netherlands
Pakistan
Poland
Turkey
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United States of America
Yugoslavia

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mr. EL ZUBEIR
Mr. TERVER
Mr. MAHEU
Dr. EL BALAWANI
Mr. GRAVES
Mr. COSTANZO

International Labour Organisation
Food and Agricultural Organization
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
International Monetary Fund
Representatives of specialized agencies (continued):

Mr. COLES International Civil Aviation Organization
Mr. PERSIN International Telecommunication Union
Mr. ASHFORD World Meteorological Organization
Mr. EHRENSTRALE United Nations Children's Fund
Mr. LILLIEFELT Technical Assistance Board

Also Present:

Mr. PERSIN

Representatives of non-governmental organizations

Category A:

Mr. BARUK International Chamber of Commerce
Mr. MBONYA International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
Mr. RAKOTOBE International Federation of Christian Trade Unions
Mr. ZAKARIA World Federation of Trade Unions
Mr. RONCONI World Veterans Federation

Category B and Register:

Miss Di GIACOMO Catholic International Union for Social Service
Mr. HOSKINS Friends World Committee for Consultation
Mrs. DANTAN International Council of Women
Mr. WIERZBIANSKI International Federation of Free Journalists
Mrs. ROBERTSON International Federation of University Women
Miss BROOKS International Federation of Women Lawyers
Mr. BOOME International Road Federation
Mr. LORIMER International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
Representatives of non-governmental organizations

Category B and Register:
(continued)

Mr. NISKANEN League of Red Cross Societies
Mr. SZULDSZYNSKI Pax Romana
Miss WHEELER World Young Women's Christian Association

Secretariat:

Mr. HAMMARSKJOLD Secretary-General²/
Mr. de SEYNES Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs
Mr. Mekki ABBAS Executive Secretary of the Commission
Mr. SCHREIBER Legal Counsel
Mr. Chi-Yuen WU Executive Assistant to the Executive Secretary
Mr. DUMONTET Secretary of the Commission

²/ Attending only the first meeting
FIRST MEETING

Held on Monday, 29 December 1958, at 3 p.m.

OPENING ADDRESSES

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY HAILE SELASSIE I, Emperor of Ethiopia, welcomed the delegations to the Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the opening session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa - a historic and significant event for the African continent. A mere half-century earlier, only the most far-sighted would have dared predict that within fifty years Africa would have so far advanced along the path of political and economic progress that such a conference, where representatives of nine independent African nations, as well as representatives of several other African countries, had gathered together in solemn conclave to consider the common problems of Africa and the African peoples would be possible.

Until recently, meetings to consider African problems had been held outside Africa, and the fate of its peoples had been decided by non-Africans. Now, however, the tradition of Berlin and Algeciras had been repudiated, and it was thanks to the Conference of Accra, and now of Addis Ababa, that the peoples of Africa could, at long last, deliberate on their own problems and future.

The political growth of the peoples of Africa, a development which had come to fruition within the lifetime of all those present, was one of the most striking evolutions in the recorded history of man. The political coming of age of the African peoples heralded the inauguration of a shining new era in the continent's history. Only nine African States now enjoyed independence, but their number would increase in the future. In 1960, additional States would emerge into the brilliant
sun of freedom - clear evidence that the political growth which had in a few short years transformed the status of so great a number of the African peoples, had not yet finished, and would continue until the goal towards which that movement had steadily and inexorably progressed was fully attained.

Political independence, however, was but one part of the complex of problems which faced the African peoples in their struggle to achieve their rightful place in the world. It was paradoxical that, while Africa was potentially the richest of continents, large numbers of its peoples still led an existence that could only be regarded as sub-standard. A major cause of that lag in Africa's economic development had been the lack of education. Africans should not be too proud to face those facts and to recognize Africa's shortcomings and defects. They should honestly and frankly face the fact that by the standards of the modern world, the African peoples to-day were poor. There was no reason to be ashamed of that poverty. Africa, despite its predominantly agricultural economy, produced only a small proportion of the world's foodstuffs - indeed, scarcely enough to support its own peoples. The average wage of the African worker compared unfavourably with that of other areas of the world. The average African might, if particularly fortunate, receive the minimum amount of nourishment necessary for physical survival, but rarely more.

Among the reasons for the poverty and hard life of the African peoples must be numbered the fact that in the past most Africans had not enjoyed the freedom which they were now attaining. In addition, the lack of the capital essential to the development of their economies and the shortage of technically qualified personnel had severely limited Africa's capacity for economic growth.

But, just as Africans should not be too proud to recognize the facts of Africa's present economic situation, they should not be discouraged by the magnitude of the problems facing them. For Africa was potentially rich. It had enormous deposits
of raw materials, and the total extent of its wealth was by no means yet known. Africa produced large quantities of several of the world's basic minerals and metals. It produced large quantities of various agricultural products, such as palm oil and cocoa. The fertility of much of its land was potentially very high, and it had a tremendous potential for the production of hydroelectric power and irrigation.

The vista before the Economic Commission for Africa in fulfilling the weighty responsibilities laid upon it by the United Nations General Assembly was a vast one. The tasks were immense. A major effort would be needed, not only by the permanent staff, but also by the Governments of all countries and territories, in fulfilling the commitments and discharging the responsibilities resting upon the Commission's members and associate members. The economies of the African States had too long existed as self-contained, isolated entities. African countries had for too long been forced to nurse their own economies and puzzle out their complicated problems by themselves, or have them handled haphazardly for them by others. The difficulties which the African peoples had had to surmount in coming together to deliberate on matters of common interest were common knowledge. But it was impossible to believe that individual countries, working alone and isolated from their neighbours, could ever achieve their objectives, and the African peoples must therefore work together if the continent's economic development was to be furthered.

The Ethiopian people in particular, for long isolated socially and geographically, had had to plough a lonely furrow in many fields of economic endeavour, lacking the right and the facility to draw upon the experience and knowledge of others who were attempting to solve almost identical problems. Now, however, as almost every paragraph in the Commission's terms of reference emphasized, the goal which he had always pursued for his people - a higher standard of living - had become the declared
objective of the Governments of the member states represented there, to be sought in every way, by concerted action. Concerted action, co-operation, co-ordinated policies - those were not just words, but great and noble conceptions. In them, and in what they stood for, could be found the key to the fulfilment of the aspirations of millions of Africans.

When in the course of its deliberations, the Commission came to tackle specific problems, it was to be hoped that it would give serious consideration to finding ways and means of extending immediate economic assistance not only to all African nations which were in need of such aid, but, in addition, to those territories which were on the threshold of independence. It should constantly be borne in mind that the economic problems of some of the younger African States and of those areas which were on the verge of statehood were most pressing and serious. The United Nations and the older States were, consequently, under a grave moral obligation to alleviate the economic difficulties of those young States and territories, and to help them found their economic structure upon a firm basis which would maintain and assure their political independence. Political and economic progress should go hand in hand.

There were other grave and important matters to which the Commission would no doubt direct its attention. Among them were the implications of the involvement of African nations in regional preferential trade agreements with nations of other continents. The Commission could well take concrete steps to explore the possibilities of establishing statistical offices where none now existed, and of co-ordinating and unifying the statistical methodology to be employed in common by all member States. A programme of close co-operation between the Commission and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to study the possibilities of increasing food production in areas where people were undernourished, and of wiping out cattle disease - problems of great importance to African countries whose economies are predominantly agricultural - would fulfil a long-felt need.
In view of the great influence of public health problems upon the economic development of African countries, the exploration and recommendation of solutions to such problems by the Commission, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, would aid immeasurably in accelerating the tempo of the economic development of the African continent. All African countries depended on their export trade for the financing of their internal development, and it was clearly important that all necessary measures should be taken for the promotion, stabilisation and diversification of exports of the countries participating in the Commission. The Commission should give serious consideration to the main transportation and communications problems, which had a considerable influence upon the development of all African countries, and the solution of which would contribute much towards the economic development of Africa. In undertaking such a study, due consideration should be given to the desirability of establishing closer connexions between the various national transportation systems, with a view to encouraging closer economic and commercial relations among the members.

It was appropriate that the present gathering should be held under the auspices of the United Nations. The United Nations was a living and tangible testimony to the value of co-operative efforts among all men to improve their way of life and preserve peace. The African peoples, too, could co-operate effectively for the common good, for their own good and for that of all men. But that required single-mindedness and an unswerving devotion to the cause of Africa and the African peoples. The Commission should be guided in its work by the principle expressed in Holy Scripture "Love thy neighbour as thyself".

Africa was not the first geographical area to be covered by a regional economic commission. That should not be considered a disadvantage, since the new Commission would be able to draw upon the experience gained and the lessons learnt by its predecessors in Europe, Latin America and Asia and the Far East.
But many of the economic and social problems were new. As the Commission sought to find the answers and the way, the eyes not only of all Africa but of the entire world would be upon it. The Government and people of Ethiopia would endeavour in every way to aid and speed its work, not only for the present meeting, but for the Commission's activities and objectives in future years, which he fervently hoped it might pursue in peace, free from the threat of war.

Ethiopia had known and suffered from the horrors of war. The threats of armed conflict, the obsession with war and armed might, were evils to be eradicated from the minds of men. So long as they persisted, progress towards the high objectives to which the United Nations was dedicated would be hampered. In the mobilization of economic resources, in the search for ways to improve the lot of man, in Africa and elsewhere, the threat to peace stood as a grim obstacle. The essential prerequisite for economic and social contentment was world peace; threats to peace developed wherever there was discontent.

He prayed that peace would prevail and that the Commission's labours would always be conducted in an atmosphere of harmony and co-operation.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that the first session of the Economic Commission for Africa was a great occasion, both for the peoples of Africa and for the United Nations itself. The presence of His Imperial Majesty, whose name stood as a symbol of the principles of international order, and who personified the gracious hospitality of an ancient country, made the occasion particularly memorable; and it was a source of deep satisfaction to know that the Commission was to make its home at Addis Ababa, and that a conference hall to be called "Africa Hall" was to be erected for its work.
The establishment of the Commission might well be regarded in the future as marking the moment when Africa began to assume its full role in the world community. He traced the development of the African States in international affairs, from the date of the first two signatures of the Covenant of the League of Nations to the recent admission of Guinea as a Member of the United Nations. The increase in the number of African States Members not only introduced a greater sense of balance into the deliberations and decisions of the United Nations; it also represented a further step towards the fulfilment of the Charter.

At the same time, Africa had played a special part in the development of international organizations through the League of Nations Mandates System, which had emerged after the First World War, for reasons of practical convenience, but had rapidly evolved into a constructive instrument of peaceful change and had prepared the ground for the more advanced Trusteeship System. Many of those who had helped to draft the Charter had surely intended that the United Nations' interest in Africa should not be restricted to the implementation of the provisions relating to trusteeship, and to the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Charter clearly recognized the many-sided responsibility of the United Nations, especially in regard to economic and social progress; hence it was inevitable that the gradual implementation of that responsibility would lead to new forms of international action, and it was both natural and timely that an instrument for economic co-operation for the whole of the continent of Africa should now be established.

While its future work was not and could not be directly concerned with factors pertaining to political evolution, if the Commission was to be successful, it could not disregard the fact that the political and constitutional changes which were rapidly taking place in Africa had a direct bearing on the problems of economic development. The concept of "international organization" thus appeared to be particularly appropriate to the problems of economic development in Africa.
New States were emerging under the historical process with geographical boundaries which, in most cases, were not best suited to the requirements of rapid economic growth. If such growth was to take place, there must be concerted action and new economic links between countries and territories with their own complex economic and social patterns, political status and monetary systems. At the same time, the advantages deriving from existing relationships with the rest of the world must not be lost. Such complicated processes could be greatly facilitated by the kind of flexible institutional arrangement which the Commission, persisting in spite of changes in political and constitutional patterns could promote by making available to countries, territories and regional and sub-regional groupings a body of technical services for the study and exploration of common problems and acting as a centre for consultations where Governments could freely define and work out the form of their co-operation.

International organization could further contribute to the satisfaction of the basic needs of the African peoples in another sense also. Changes were taking place in all aspects of African life at a pace previously unknown. Governments which now took their rightful place in international deliberations represented peoples who, in some instances, had until recently had little or no contact with the outside world beyond the association afforded by colonial status. It was already apparent that in some parts of Africa the colonial phase would be much shorter than in other continents. In other parts, colonialism was becoming so markedly altered from its original form that it was hardly the same phenomenon as that formerly identified under that word.

In such circumstances, the existence of a well-organized clearing house for exchange of information and experience, supplemented by some measure of analysis and critical appraisal, could have a direct, practical impact by shortening the process of trial
and error, and could help to create a body of collective knowledge and wisdom on problems of development and administration. That was a new type of co-operation which the United Nations had done much to assist and stimulate. In addition to its practical effect, it might have a far-reaching influence in building a new type of human solidarity, and the Commission would no doubt find such activity to be an indispensable part of its programme of work.

There was great scope for action by the Commission which could add significantly to the United Nations' record of solid achievement. The danger existed, of course, of dissipating energies and not making the best and fullest use of the machinery available. Africa could ill afford any such wasted effort. Officials of Governments could not spare time for international meetings unless they were convened for clearly useful purposes. He hoped that the Commission would be vigorous, that it would not hesitate to deal with challenging problems and that, for reasons of economy, superfluous or secondary projects would be avoided. Self-discipline would thus be necessary from the outset, since habits were not easily corrected, in the life of international organizations as elsewhere. The proper place must therefore be assigned to public debate, consultation and technical advice, so that the Commission would be able to carry out a sound and flexible programme of action.

It was important to regard the Commission not as an isolated endeavour or a self-contained entity, but rather as a focal point where the economic needs of the African people would be expressed and appropriate action initiated and stimulated. The Commission would have its own staff and resources to undertake specific projects. But its very existence also offered an opportunity for a general intensification of all programmes of economic co-operation in Africa. Its work would have the backing of other activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

The United Nations was not yet endowed with the means to finance capital investment; but it could at least provide a variety of means for creating conditions likely to lead to investments, private or public, domestic or foreign. Under the new
Special Fund established almost simultaneously with the Commission, the United Nations would be able to expand its activities by undertaking comprehensive surveys of resources and providing equipment for pilot plants or technological institutes. It was essential for the Commission to maintain close relations with all those programmes and with the substantial work of the specialized agencies. The complicated institutional system of the United Nations was sometimes puzzling to Governments; it had not been easy to create for the first time in a complex world a comprehensive system of voluntary co-operation over wide areas of activity. But the system had on the whole been successful, and through the Commission Governments would become increasingly familiar with it.

The project for an Economic Commission for Africa had taken almost a decade to come to fruition, but the intervening time had not been entirely lost. Experience of regional work had been acquired, and he felt that in those ten years a very favourable change had taken place in the climate attending international discussions on Africa. As the future of the African continent emerged in clearer and more promising perspective, it was becoming possible to develop the kind of pragmatic, rational and dispassionate approach indispensable to economic co-operation.

The General Assembly's decision to set up the Commission had been inspired by an earnest desire to assist the peoples of Africa. But in turn, all the Members would recognize that they had something to gain from increased partnership with the African peoples. Today, the sense of progress and democracy was richer and broader than in the nineteenth century. There was a better understanding of various forms of social consciousness and patterns of social organization, and of the role they could play in certain important phases of development programmes. At the same time it was gratifying to witness the acute desire and even impatience of African leaders for rapid modernization. A new synthesis of tradition and aspiration, with its own distinctive features, was emerging in the African continent, and it was bound to be a significant addition to the common fund of human experience.
While retaining a proper sense of proportion as was becoming in a young organization, and while fully conscious of its limitations and of the difficulties which lay ahead, the United Nations could not fail to see the broader implications of the events now being celebrated.

He again thanked His Imperial Majesty for the welcome he had extended to the Commission, and expressed his sincere hopes that the Commission would rapidly fulfil the expectations in the minds and hearts of all.

Mr. Mekki Abbas (Executive Secretary) said that the date of the inauguration of the first session of the Economic Commission for Africa would be a memorable one in the history of the continent. It marked the first occasion on which all the Governments of the states and territories of Africa had met together under one flag, the flag of the United Nations, for the purpose of co-operating in the accomplishment of the truly peaceful and noble purpose of raising the standards of living of the peoples of the continent. That was an object in keeping with the fundamental purposes of the United Nations, and he was sure that it was in order to pay tribute to this noble purpose that His Imperial Majesty had graciously consented to open the first session of the Commission. At the same time he would like to thank His Imperial Majesty for the great interest he had taken in the preparations for the session and for having placed at the disposal of the Commission and its Secretariat such excellent facilities. He hoped that His Imperial Majesty's personal interest would be an inspiration not only to the citizens of Ethiopia but to all Africans.

He paid a tribute to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the Under-Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs for their contribution to the work preparatory to the session, and thanked them for attending the opening session.

The Commission was the latest of the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and he thought that in consequence it would be able to draw profitably on the experience of those other commissions.
He was not unaware of the difficulty of the Commission's task. In the first place, the economic development of Africa's resources and the transformation of the social life of Africa's peoples from low standards of living to highly developed forms of rural and urban society required sound planning preceded by thorough study and research. That evolution would also need expert guidance which would help the peoples of Africa to adjust themselves to new ways of life without any loss of traditional values. Secondly, the Secretariat's resources were limited and hence its role in promoting the development of Africa would inevitably be modest in the early stages. At the same time, however, he was convinced that, in time, the Commission would be able to make a valuable contribution to the economic and social development of the continent and so assist the Governments in their own efforts. He fully realized the dangers of an excessively theoretical or academic approach; it was for the Commission to guide the Secretariat and to specify the priorities of its work. The Secretariat would, in conformity with the Commission's terms of reference (E/CN.14/1) tackle the practical and more urgent problems of development, the problems of maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of countries and territories of Africa, both among themselves and with other countries of the world, and perform advisory services for Governments of States and Territories in the region; such services should not, of course, overlap with those performed by other bodies of the United Nations or by the specialized agencies. He drew attention to the memorandum concerning the programme of work (E/CN.14/4).

In conclusion, he said that he had been greatly honoured in being invited by the Secretary-General to act as Executive Secretary of the Commission.

Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (France) thanked His Imperial Majesty for graciously consenting to open the inaugural meeting of the Commission as a token of the great interest he had in its work. In view of the bonds of friendship which had always united France and Ethiopia, the French Government was particularly gratified at the choice of Addis Ababa as the meeting place for the first session and as the site of the Commission's permanent headquarters.
On behalf of all participants in the Commission, he wished to express gratitude for the welcome accorded them by the Ethiopian Government and people. Having participated in sessions of the three other regional economic commissions in various capacities, he was in a good position to appreciate at their full worth both the facilities of every kind placed at the Commission's disposal and the delicate marks of consideration showered upon its participants.

He was convinced that the Commission, under the competent and realistic leadership of Mr. Mekki Abbas, its Executive Secretary, would fulfil the hopes placed in it. That the Commission would be successful was his most fervent wish and there could be no better augury of that success than the support given to the Commission by the Sovereign of Ethiopia.

Mr. QUAIIDOO (Ghana) thanked His Imperial Majesty not merely for gracing the inaugural meeting with his presence but also for his keen personal interest in the Commission's work. The delegation of Ghana, too, was deeply touched by the generous reception accorded to the Commission by the Government and people of Ethiopia.

His delegation pledged itself to do all in its power to ensure that the Economic Commission for Africa would be a resounding success.

Mr. DEN KATU (Libya) expressed his deep gratitude to His Imperial Majesty for presiding over the inaugural ceremony and for the wise guidance he had given the Commission. The delegation of Libya was most appreciative of the generous welcome that all participants had received. It was his firm conviction that the Commission would make a valuable contribution to the task of banishing disease and poverty from Africa, enabling its peoples to live in dignity, happiness and prosperity.

Mr. KHEIR (Sudan) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the honour that His Imperial Majesty had bestowed on the Commission by addressing the inaugural meeting. His kind words of welcome would serve as an inspiration to all participants and further that spirit of co-operation, based upon friendship and mutual respect,
which was essential for the fruition of the Commission's work. He had no doubt that, with clearly-defined objectives based on the needs of the African peoples, the Commission would prove a great success.

Mr. SHIATI (United Arab Republic) declared his conviction that, inspired by the wise words addressed to it by His Imperial Majesty, the long-awaited Economic Commission for Africa would achieve its goals. Africa was sorely in need of assistance from the United Nations in order to raise its level of living.

Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom) said that His Imperial Majesty was deeply respected throughout the world as a wise and courageous monarch who had taken a lead in economic and social development. It was therefore most auspicious that the Commission's first session should be held in his capital, Addis Ababa, and he wished to thank the host Government for its generous welcome and for offering the Commission facilities for its permanent headquarters.

The peoples of Africa, with their rich heritage of natural talent and resources, would all benefit from the work upon which the Commission was about to embark, and the presence of the Secretary-General was a guarantee that the full resources of the United Nations would back its efforts.

The meeting was suspended at 4.10 p.m. and resumed at 4.55 p.m.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND OTHER OFFICERS (item 2 of the provisional agenda)

The ACTING CHAIRMAN called for nominations for the office of Chairman.

Mr. SHIATI (United Arab Republic) nominated Mr. Abebe Retta (Ethiopia)

Mr. SLIM (Tunisia) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Abebe Retta (Ethiopia) was elected Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. Abebe Retta (Ethiopia) took the chair.
The CHAIRMAN expressed his appreciation of the honour which the members of the Commission had paid to himself and his country by electing him Chairman; he was deeply aware of the great responsibility and trust which the office carried with it. The representatives assembled at the meeting came from territories with varied cultural and social traditions, but they had one common aim - to achieve through the Commission the material and cultural advancement of their countries and to meet the dire need for a better, happier and easier life for every African man and woman. As had already been pointed out, the African peoples had in recent decades displayed a deep desire for economic and social progress, and some encouraging results had been obtained by co-ordinated effort. It was the conviction of all countries that problems of common interest should be tackled by mutual co-operation, and the establishment of the Commission could be regarded as a culmination of effort in that direction. For the first time, representatives of the African countries had gathered together to work out a programme of concerted action within the framework of the United Nations. Their united effort would accelerate economic and cultural progress and help to pool the available resources. The thanks of the African nations were due to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for having, by establishing the Commission, responded to the "common cry of Africans".

He read out a telegram addressed to the Chairman of the Commission in which the President of the Republic of Guinea sent the greetings of the Government and people of Guinea to the representatives attending the meeting and expressed their best wishes for the success of the Commission's work.

To enable the Commission to proceed with the election of its officers, he suggested that, as proposed by the Executive Secretary in paragraph 3 of document E/CN.14/3, the Commission should adopt provisionally the draft rules of procedure (E/CN.14/3, annex A).

The draft rules of procedure were provisionally adopted.
The CHAIRMAN called for nominations for the office of First Vice-Chairman.

Mr. MANASSE LEMA (Ethiopia) nominated Mr. Slim (Tunisia).

Mr. DOE (Liberia) and Mr. Ben KATU (Libya) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Slim (Tunisia) was elected First Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN called for nominations for the office of Second Vice-Chairman.

Mr. SLIM (Tunisia) nominated Mr. Norris (Liberia).

Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Norris (Liberia) was elected Second Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN observed that a number of delegations had expressed the wish that a Third Vice-Chairman be elected.

Mr. GUAIDOO (Ghana) expressed the view that rule 13 of the draft rules of procedure, which the Commission had provisionally adopted, precluded the election of a Third Vice-Chairman.

Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom) disagreed. Rule 13 required the election of a First and Second Vice-Chairman, but did not preclude the election of a Third Vice-Chairman, Rapporteur, or whatever other officers the Commission might wish to appoint.

Mr. BEN KIRANE (Morocco) supported the interpretation placed on rule 13 by the representative of Ghana.

Mr. DOE (Liberia) said that if the Commission wished to elect a Third Vice-Chairman, it would have to amend rule 13 by a two-thirds majority vote.

Mr. van ROS (Belgium) pointed out that no decision had yet been taken on the question whether rule 13 permitted the election of a Third Vice-Chairman.

Mr. BETTICL (Italy) expressed the view that a Third Vice-Chairman would be necessary if the Commission was to function efficiently.
Chief OKOTIE-EBOH (Federation of Nigeria) said he thought the Chairman should put to the vote the question whether a Third Vice-Chairman should be elected. If the Commission decided in the affirmative, the objection of the representative of Ghana would no longer hold.

Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom) said that the question was whether or not the Commission was entitled to interpret rule 13 as permitting the election of a Third Vice-Chairman. On that point, the ruling of the Chairman should be accepted.

The CHAIRMAN said that a legal question was involved. He suggested that the Commission might be able to find some other way out of the difficulty.

Mr. QUADOO (Ghana) proposed that a decision on the election of other officers should be deferred until the Commission held its final discussion on the rules of procedure.

Mr. MANASSE LEMMA (Ethiopia) seconded the proposal.

The CHAIRMAN put the proposal to the vote.

The proposal was adopted by 9 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (E/CN.14/2 and E/CN.14/6)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the provisional agenda (E/CN.14/2) and the additional item proposed by the Government of Ethiopia (E/CN.14/6).

The provision agenda and the additional item were adopted unanimously.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.
SECOND MEETING
Held on Tuesday, 30 December 1958, at 10.30 a.m.

GENERAL DEBATE

The CHAIRMAN, declaring the general debate open, reminded delegations that it was the Commission's intention to devote two days only to general statements and requested those wishing to speak to submit their names as early as possible.

Mr. QUADAR (Ghana) recalled that it was at the twelfth session of the General Assembly that the hitherto abortive attempts to set up an Economic Commission for Africa had finally succeeded. At a time when the Commission, meeting in inaugural session, was to lay the foundations for economic, social and technical cooperation in Africa, it was fitting to pay a tribute to the representatives of the African States whose efforts had resulted in the presentation of draft terms of reference for the Commission. Credit was also due to the Governments of the United Kingdom and Belgium for their decision, despite initial misgivings, to participate fully in the Commission's work.

He would like, on behalf of the Government of Ghana, to express gratitude to the Imperial Government of Ethiopia for offering its capital as the site of the Commission and for providing, at very short notice, all the facilities for its first session. He wished also to congratulate Mr. Mekki Abbas on his appointment to the important post of Executive Secretary of the Commission, and to assure him that he could count on the co-operation of all its members.

The Commission's task at its inaugural session was to establish a framework so as to enable African States to pool their resources with a view to deriving the maximum benefits from the potential of the continent. That was a considerable challenge and it meant working in unity and harmony. There had, of course, been co-operation in the past between African States; the Arab League and the Commission
for Technical Co-operation in Africa south of the Sahara, for instance, were already at work on a regional basis. His delegation, however, believed in the oneness of Africa and in solidarity among independent African States. It was therefore particularly gratified to see States and territories north, south and east of the Sahara sitting together within the Commission. Since it was the peoples who could unite or divide a continent and not the deserts and the mountains, the alleged division of the African continent into two parts was a figment of the imagination. It was regrettable, therefore, that the Government of the Union of South Africa had decided not to participate in the work of the first session, but he hoped that it would take part in the next session of the Commission, as was its right.

As his delegation saw it, the United Nations had two major tasks to perform in Africa, both of them economic. The first was to help the African peoples to establish their economic independence; the second, to eliminate the barriers which separated them. As far as the first task was concerned, the United Nations could provide technical assistance in the administrative sphere. Coming in where the imperialist powers were just stepping out, the Members of the United Nations would help one another to create the administrative framework of independence. The United Nations could also furnish the countries of Africa with the funds required to strengthen their independence. He hoped the Commission would ensure that Africa received its fair share of the capital invested in economic development; so far the African populations had seen very little of it. Africa, more than any other continent, needed such funds with no strings attached.
With regard to the elimination of barriers between States, he pointed out that the colonial Powers had paid scant attention to geographic and ethnic considerations when they established the frontiers of the countries of Africa. Now, as those Powers moved out, the creation of a large number of petty States was a danger which should be avoided at all costs. His Government had made its position plain; it had just entered into a union with Guinea which it hoped would be the nucleus of a new "Union of West African States". In taking that step, Ghana was not trying to walk before it could creep. It hoped, not to achieve the political union of all African peoples, but to make the economic measures adopted more effective. It would be ECA's responsibility to bring about regional economic arrangements designed to overcome the obstacles to economic development. Although that activity would be strictly limited to the economic field, the Commission must nevertheless remain conscious at all times of the political atmosphere in which it had to work. The value of the research work done by the Commission's staff should not be underestimated; but ECA should never forget that it was working for a continent which was undergoing a process of rapid development. Born as it was out of African freedom, its main task would be to strengthen that freedom, by completing what the colonial Powers had left undone and by helping the African peoples to overcome the artificial barriers created between them. He hoped that the Commission would be equal to that great challenge.

Mr. van ROS (Belgium) thanked the Ethiopian authorities for the cordial welcome they had extended to the Commission. The choice of Addis Ababa as the permanent seat of the Economic Commission for Africa was a particularly happy one, for it associated in the work of the Commission an African country of ancient tradition which welcomed modern technical advances and had from the outset been devoted to the principles of the United Nations Charter.
The Belgian Government, with its constant interest in the welfare of the African peoples, was happy to be taking part in the first session of E... The Commission would be working in a field in which a number of Governments had already achieved a great deal; as an example, he cited the ten-year plans drawn up by the Belgian Government for the economic and social development of the Belgian Congo, and Ruanda Urundi.

Stressing the need for effective co-operation and co-ordination, he drew attention to the results which had been obtained by such bodies as the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa. It was essential that the Commission should achieve concrete results within a reasonable time. He expressed a word of warning against the danger of extremist and unrealistic proposals, for they would surely jeopardise the success of the Commission's work. The Commission should work towards specific goals and strive to promote economic development and raise the level of social well-being, and its sole concern should be efficiency in attaining those objectives.

Chief OKOTIE-EBOH (Federation of Nigeria) said the first session of the Commission was of historic importance. He thanked the Emperor of Ethiopia for the hospitality extended to the Commission, which he hoped would one day hold a session in Nigeria. While he rejoiced that Nigeria would acquire political independence on 1 October 1960, he emphasized that political independence was meaningless without economic independence. Nigeria had received extensive assistance from the Western world for its economic development, and hoped to continue to benefit from such assistance. Its resources could not, however, be developed properly except with the twofold co-operation of the highly developed countries of the free world and the
countries of Africa. Economic development knew no frontiers, and the various
countries should co-operate to make the best use of Africa's vast unexploited
resources. The gathering of all the peoples of Africa under the auspices of the
United Nations was evidence of that Organization's devotion to the principle of
universal. Obviously, Africa would not be able to play its part in the progress
of mankind unless it was assured of full development. The Federation of Nigeria,
an African country, must move forward in such fields as education, telecommunications, health and transport, and it also needed capital and technicians. It had
initiated a large-scale programme for economic and social development which it was
financing out of its own resources. Those resources were limited, however, and
Nigeria would welcome outside financial and technical assistance. He therefore
trusted that the Commission would strive to make capital and technical advances
available to the under-developed countries of Africa. He expressed the hope that
the work of the first session would be constructive and produce results beneficial
for the peoples of Africa.

Mr. ABECASSIS (Portugal) congratulated the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen on
their election. Their offices carried heavy responsibilities, and he would like
to affirm the Portuguese delegation's sincere desire to collaborate. He recalled
that Portugal and Ethiopia had been joined since the fifteenth century by close
ties of friendship formed both in peace and in the comradeship of arms, and
strengthened by an identity of ideals and religion. It had therefore been quite
natural that on two occasions, in 1919 and in 1923, Portugal had supported Ethiopia's
application for admission to the League of Nations.
The Commission had to consider problems of paramount importance, problems which must be seen within the framework of the efforts that had been and were being made to improve living conditions in many parts of the world. The Portuguese delegation considered that the development of the less developed countries represented a vital challenge, which must be met with determination in order to eliminate poverty and disease, promote human solidarity among peoples and nations and make the benefits of science and technology available to all. Moral and spiritual values must also be given their due weight, and no effort must be spared to enlighten the peoples and protect them from subversive propaganda. Success would not be achieved unless the needs of the peoples were satisfied, and tireless efforts must therefore be made along all avenues of approach to improve levels of living and economic and social conditions in all the under-developed parts of the world. For that purpose, broad international co-operation was indispensable, and it was no less necessary that those who were able to help should display goodwill and generosity than that those who requested assistance should have a sense of responsibility, be ready to provide good administration, and be firmly resolved to work seriously.

Only thus would it be possible to ensure that the assistance provided did not entail economic and political servitude, and to hope for a gradual closing of the gap between the developed and the less developed countries, a gap which would otherwise grow ever wider, since the rate of economic development in the more advanced countries tended to be higher than in those which were less advanced.

Unless numerous hopes were to be disappointed, it should, however, be remembered that private capital must continue to play an important part in the development of the world's wealth. Private capital would of course always demand guarantees and returns, but that did not necessarily affect the sovereign right of States to self-
determination, a right which Portugal was the first to proclaim and uphold.

The Portuguese Government for its part would not evade its duties to the international community and, within the limits of its resources, it would certainly make its contribution to international cooperation for the purpose of achieving the speediest possible improvement in the situation of the less developed countries. The Portuguese nation as a whole would discharge its responsibilities, bearing always in mind the paramount interest of the populations concerned.

After referring to the work of the other regional economic commissions, he expressed his gratification at the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa, which rectified an omission. He was convinced that the long experience of the other commissions would be very useful to it.

He referred briefly to the discussions which had led to the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa and recalled that, at the twelfth session of the General Assembly, Portugal had voted both in the Second Committee and in plenary for the draft resolution recommending the Commission's establishment. Although the Portuguese delegation considered that the Commission's terms of reference, as set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 671 A (XXV) and as amended by the Council at its twenty-sixth session, could have been improved, it had raised no fundamental objections, and, in an official communication addressed to the Secretary-General at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, it had expressed its readiness to participate fully in the Commission's work.

The Portuguese delegation believed that the Commission's work should bring about close and fruitful cooperation between Africa and the rest of the world, and particularly Europe, thereby strengthening the prospects for world peace. In carrying out
that work, it should always bear in mind the special aspects of Africa's economic problems. It should not be forgotten that there were two types of economy in Africa, one of which might be called a "monetary economy" and the other, a "subsistence economy". Each type corresponded to a different type of self-contained economic development, the evolution and amalgamation of which created problems of economic dislocation that had not yet been sufficiently studied. Those problems must be studied with the utmost care in view of their possible effect on monetary and financial stability in Africa and their bearing on the feasibility of regional co-operation in intra-African trade. It was clear, then, that the Commission bore heavy responsibilities, the successful discharge of which would require the sincere co-operation of its members.

It was his understanding that the new United Nations body would be guided in its work by its terms of reference and that, accordingly, its attention would be focussed on economic problems and their social implications, to the exclusion of any political considerations, which were entirely outside its sphere of competence. His delegation believed that any departure from that course of action would jeopardize the Commission's work, thereby dashing the high hopes which all members placed in the new organization.

There was also much to be gained from close co-operation between the Commission and the specialized agencies and other international regional organizations which had long been functioning in Africa and whose activities to a large extent covered the same field as those of ECA. Such organizations included the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa, which had done valuable and fruitful work, and the ECA could
undoubtedly profit from its achievements. It would indeed be deplorable if any overlapping or duplication of efforts were permitted. His delegation would revert to that question when the relevant agenda item was under discussion.

With regard to the Commission's rules of procedure, to be established on the basis of the draft prepared by the Executive Secretary (E/CN.14/3), his delegation was in general agreement with most of the proposals contained in that draft, but reserved its position regarding certain points, on which it would express its views during the discussion of agenda item 5.

In a spirit of co-operation and in the desire to meet the needs of other Governments, Portugal would make available to members of the Commission who might be interested twelve scholarships for study at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, the Laboratory of Civil Engineering and the Laboratory for Materials Testing and Soil Mechanics. The conditions governing the grant of the scholarships would be communicated to the Secretariat in due course.

He understood that there were still a number of vacant posts in the ECA Secretariat and he would be grateful if the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary of ECA would find it possible to allocate some of them to Portuguese technicians and scientists. That would only be fair and would give the staff the representative character it should have.

In conclusion, he reiterated his country's sincere desire to co-operate in the work of the Commission, which he trusted would be, not a forum of dissension, as some appeared to fear, but an effective instrument for the development of a continent whose population included many Portuguese nationals.
Mr. MANASSE LEMMA (Ethiopia) welcomed the participants and expressed the hope that the arrangements for their reception at Addis Ababa had demonstrated Ethiopia's cordial hospitality. The African States were meeting for the first time under United Nations auspices to promote the economic and social development of the continent. He thought that the rate and magnitude of recent achievements would be an incentive to further efforts to open up a brighter future for the African peoples.

Capital and the help of experts were needed to speed up the development of the potential resources of Africa. If foreign capital was ploughed into the fertile soil of Africa, and if technicians came from abroad, sure results and vast rewards would await those who participated in the undertaking.

The States and the peoples should pursue those aims without animosity or distrust. Paternalism had had its day, and its methods could never succeed. What was needed was aid in the form of loans, investments, or else assistance compatible with the dignity and self-confidence of the recipient countries.

All the countries which were at an early stage of development were glad of the present opportunity to consider thoroughly, together with all friendly African States, their common problems, and to take advantage of the technical resources of the United Nations research services and of the assistance of the experts which the United Nations could provide.

Apart from a short and tragic period, Ethiopia had emerged from its economic and social isolation by its own resources and efforts under the direction of its Sovereign. It had had the benefit neither of the capital, nor of the ideas, nor of the progress which colonialism, with its concomitant disadvantages, brought with it. Ethiopia did, however, fully recognize the value of the support so kindly and generously provided by friendly countries like the United States of America.
Ethiopia was one of the so-called under-developed countries, and though proud of its achievements, it realized that they were modest by comparison with what remained to be done. Ethiopia did not yet have a full and profound knowledge of its economic circumstances. It needed aid in compiling and evaluating the indispensable statistics relating to domestic and foreign trade and to industry. Furthermore, for the purpose of its investments it needed capital, without which no serious development was possible. His delegation looked upon the Commission as a body capable of offering its members guidance, financial help and substantial assistance. The Commission would contribute to the spreading of friendly contacts over the whole of Africa, make it possible to pool experience, and offer the benefits of mutual help. Ethiopia, for its part, would make every effort to place its moral and material resources, and its experience, at the disposal of the other participants. Ethiopia was ready to give and to receive, and it was convinced that with the help of the United Nations, the members of the Commission would be able to build together an efficient institution which would achieve much for Africa and the world.

He expressed satisfaction with the programme of work and priorities prepared by the Executive Secretary (E/CN.14/4). That programme provided a very clear picture of the various forms which co-operation and assistance would assume.

In conclusion, he said the Ethiopian delegation would like to draw particular attention to certain studies concerning subjects affecting either the whole of Africa or certain parts of Africa, viz. (a) repercussions of the European Common Market on the economies of the African countries, and means of safeguarding their position; (b) financial and technical assistance to the sister African nations and to African territories awaiting independence which would need such assistance in resolving their present economic problems.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.
THIRD MEETING  
Held on Tuesday, 30 December 1958 at 3 p.m.

GENERAL DEBATE (continued from the second meeting)

Mr. KEITA (Sudan) congratulated the Chairman on his election. He felt sure that with such leadership and the services of the Executive Secretary, the Economic Commission for Africa could look to the future with confidence.

The documents circulated by the Secretariat indicated possible spheres of operation and development, and he would like to outline the experience of his country in social and economic development. In the Sudan it was natural that development should be eagerly sought by the population and should become almost the sole object of government activity, for the average income was low, transport was poor, educational and health services were inadequate, and drinking water in rural areas was insufficient. Thus, his Government, with its limited resources, found the burden of planning and carrying out developments no easy task. Other serious problems were the shortage of capital and technical skill, the difficulty of striking a balance between productive development and short-term investment, and a desire, natural but fraught with danger, to hasten development unduly. The human problem was also an obstacle to development, for long-standing habits and attitudes had to be changed.

The ways in which such problems of development were being tackled were familiar. Valuable help was being given by international organizations in supplementing the efforts of individual countries, and governments were becoming aware of the similarity of their problems and the desirability of collective action.

The countries of Africa, even though under-developed, had much to offer mutually as well as much to learn from one another. The Secretariat had indicated in its memorandum (E/CN.14/4) that diversification of agricultural production might be one of the Commission's fields of study, and since agriculture depended both on social factors and on natural resources and capital, such a study could be of great value to African Governments. He outlined the main features of the Gezira-cotton scheme in the Sudan.
and thought that the experience gained might be applied successfully in other parts of Africa. The Sudanese Government had still not found an answer to agricultural development in certain other parts of the Sudan, particularly in the south, and the experience of other African countries would be helpful.

With regard to the future work of the Commission, he thought that the establishment of priorities would be simplified if the Commission had some indication of the financial resources and manpower available both immediately and in the future. He welcomed the Secretariat proposals for the collection and analysis of basic statistics, since the lack of such data limited planning. A study of the effects on African economies of regional combinations such as the European Common Market was also urgently required. In that connexion the Commission might well take note of the recent counter-proposals of the Arab League. An important point to be considered in such a study was how to avoid endangering the economies of the African countries.

In providing technical assistance, the Commission should give preference to projects which formed part of existing national development programmes and to such others as might have wider implications for the African continent as a whole. His final suggestions were that the study of hydro-electric power projects and possibilities of atomic power should be pursued, and that the creation of training institutes for statistical and economic development under African conditions should be one of the first priorities in the Commission's work. He felt confident that a realistic programme of work based on clearly defined targets and first-hand knowledge of conditions in individual countries would prepare the way for a fruitful and expanding future.

Mr. BETTIOL (Italy) said it had been particularly fitting that the needs of Africa should have been voiced by the sovereign of a country destined to play a
particularly important part in the future of that continent. The inspiring statement made by His Imperial Majesty at the opening meeting had, in effect, been an appeal for a joint effort by all men of goodwill to enable the African continent to occupy its rightful place in world affairs.

That was the reason why the Economic Commission for Africa had been established and the reason why it must work in the spirit of co-operation and unity underlying the United Nations. It was in that spirit that the members of the Commission appreciated the need for close and practical co-operation between the European and African countries, since any other approach could lead only to division and fragmentation, both political and economic, which would constitute a dangerous obstacle to progress and liberty in the African continent.

It was essential that the Commission should undertake thorough and well-planned studies of African problems. It must do so in an atmosphere of mutual understanding with a view to achieving concrete solutions beneficial to all countries genuinely interested in international co-operation. Miracles should not, however, be expected; that would merely lead to disappointment and even to resentment.

Italy's sole aim in Africa was sincere and friendly co-operation and the development of closer relations with all African countries on the basis of mutual understanding and respect. It wished the Commission every success in promoting the political, economic and social development of those countries and was prepared to offer its fullest co-operation.

With the establishment of an independent sovereign State of Somalia in 1960, Italy would have accomplished the task assigned to it by the United Nations, a task it had carried out in a truly altruistic spirit. It would be glad to give the new
State financial, economic, technical and cultural assistance in order to ensure that it enjoyed genuine independence and had the best possible opportunities for progressive social and economic development and for good relations with all countries.

Mr. MELMOTH (Uganda) said that his Government welcomed the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa, believing that it held out real hope of hastening the pace of economic and social development at a time when the need for assistance was particularly great.

The Government of Uganda had for some time been endeavouring to speed up economic and social development and to raise the standard of living of the people, and the policies adopted had met with a fair measure of success. Since 1950, for example, the national income of the territory had increased by over 80 per cent; government revenue had more than doubled and expenditure on basic services had more than trebled. Since, however, the per capita annual income was still only £20, much still remained to be done. Substantial assistance in achieving those improvements had been received from the United Kingdom Government, but to a considerable extent development had been financed by the growth of the territory's own resources and by heavy drawings on reserves built up in good times.

The establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa was particularly timely in view of the difficulties in maintaining the tempo of economic development now facing Uganda and other countries in a similar position. Although there was every hope that there would be record crops of cotton, coffee, sugar and tea in the year ending on 30 June 1959 and that the new copper mine would exceed its planned output, it was likely that, as a result of a fall in commodity prices on the world market, the national income of the territory would show a small decline for the first time since 1953. As the territory's reserves became exhausted expenditure on economic development would have to be reduced. One of the most important problems facing not only Uganda, but all underdeveloped countries in Africa was the effect of changes in world commodity prices and the need to ensure that an increase in production was accompanied by an increase in national
prosperity. It was encouraging that the problem was already engaging the attention of the United Nations and it was to be hoped that positive results would soon be achieved. In the opinion of the Uganda Government, price stabilization schemes were not a suitable approach to the problem in under-developed countries such as Uganda. It considered that a sounder procedure would be to remove the practical barriers which restricted the volume of international trade and which diverted trade from its normal channels, since the pace of economic development in Africa depended on the existence of a world market for an expanded output of African products.

The Uganda Government wished to emphasize that particular problem in view of the principle that the achievement of optimum results could best be assured by concentration of efforts on a limited number of major areas of activity, which had been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-fourth session. If that principle was closely followed, the purposes of the Economic Commission for Africa could be achieved more quickly and effectively.

Uganda greatly appreciated the opportunity of being associated with the work of the Economic Commission for Africa. Although its limited resources were completely absorbed by local needs, it would endeavour to take part as fully as possible in the Commission's work.

Mr. BEN KATU (Libya) said that, with the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations had taken a further step towards fulfilling the world's hopes that it would promote universal prosperity, security and stability. His delegation was confident that the Commission would effectively assist the African countries in making a joint study of their complex problems, in finding appropriate solutions and in channelling all their efforts into the achievement of prosperity and progress for their peoples, and would thus contribute to the welfare of the world as a whole. In carrying out those tasks, the Commission would undoubtedly greatly benefit from the experience of the other regional economic commissions.
Libya appreciated the responsibilities of membership in the Commission and would discharge them to the best of its ability.

The Libyan Government believed that in the interests of peace and stability, the present growth of political consciousness in Africa must be accompanied by sound economic development and by the removal of the differences between the standard of living of the African peoples and that of other peoples of the world. Redoubled efforts to improve the standard of living of the African peoples were, therefore, required. If properly exploited, the resources of the continent were sufficient not only to meet the needs of its inhabitants, but also to contribute towards meeting those of the peoples of other continents.

What Africa mainly needed was assistance in the development and industrialization of its agricultural resources. That would necessitate an expansion of industrial development, the spread of education and the establishment of road, air, sea and wireless communications between the African countries.

Because of its limited resources, Libya had received assistance from the United Nations since attaining its independence in 1951. Thanks to the efforts of its people, exports and per capitul income had risen during that period and the standard of living had improved. Lack of resources was, however, still impeding the efforts to exploit Libya's agricultural, mineral and industrial potentialities and it was hoped that through the Economic Commission for Africa Libya might receive further help under the assistance programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and thus soon itself be in a position to assist other new countries.

Libya was at present revising its national economic plans with the assistance of a mission from the World Bank. It was confident that the Bank and other international financial institutions would pay increased attention to Africa and provide it with the studies and funds needed for its economic development.
The Libyan Government wished the Commission every success in its service to the peoples of the African continent. It also hoped that those African countries which were not yet self-governing would be able to join the Commission as soon as possible.

Mr. WALRAVEN (Netherlands), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the Netherlands delegation had been among the first to express its satisfaction at the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa. The Netherlands would have considered applying for membership in the Commission, if that had been possible under the Commission's terms of reference. Since it was not possible, his country would seek to make a constructive contribution to the Commission's work by attending its meetings as an observer; it would also endeavour to do so in other organs of the United Nations, for instance, the Economic and Social Council and in the Governing Council of the Special Fund, of which it was a member.

In the various organs of the United Nations the Netherlands had always urged that Member States should make the maximum efforts and the greatest sacrifices that could reasonably be demanded for the purpose of meeting the needs of under-developed areas. It contributed relatively substantial sums to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance; a large number of Dutch experts served the Programme all over the world, and the Netherlands provided many international courses and other facilities for fellows from under-developed countries. It had pledged a contribution of approximately $2.5 million to the Special Fund for the year 1959. The Netherlands would, of course, continue to follow the policy thus established in its relations with the new Economic Commission for Africa and in its rapidly expanding bilateral relations with the African countries and territories.

In the period since the establishment of the United Nations, the difference between the standard of living of the more developed and the less developed countries had come to be recognized as one of the most urgent problems of the time. The setting up of the Economic Commission for Africa constituted a guarantee that the extensive machinery built up by the United Nations and the specialized agencies for the promotion of economic and social development in the under-developed countries would be employed to the full in
assisting the peoples of Africa to accelerate their economic development.

Its membership in the three other regional commissions had given the Netherlands an appreciation of the importance of those commissions, especially ECAFE and ECLA, to the countries and territories concerned. A striking feature of the regional commissions was the spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding which marked their sessions even when politically controversial issues were under discussion.

For all those reasons, the Netherlands was confident that, under the able leadership of Mr. Abbas, the Economic Commission for Africa would make a substantial contribution to the effective, harmonious and peaceful development of the continent.

Mr. ASHFORD (World Meteorological Organization) said that WMO was greatly interested in the work of the Economic Commission for Africa. It wished the Commission every success, and hoped that there would be close collaboration between the two organizations in accordance with the agreement between WMO and the United Nations.

It was hardly necessary to remind the Commission that climate and weather had an important bearing on almost every aspect of economic development. A knowledge of climatic factors was of vital importance to agriculture, to the development of air communications and to road and railway construction; development of water resources could not be undertaken economically without adequate meteorological and hydrological data. Clearly therefore, WMO's work in strengthening the meteorological services of Africa constituted a valuable contribution to economic development. As some information about that work was given in document E/CN.14/5, he would merely refer to the project for a climatic atlas for Africa in which all WMO's member States and territories in Africa were collaborating and to WMO's technical assistance activities, which included a study of the meteorological aspects of the locust problem.

WMO believed that it might be possible and profitable to organize some joint ECA/WMO projects similar to the joint survey carried out by ECAFE and WMO in 1955 on the major deficiencies in hydrological data in the ECAFE region and the joint WMO/ECAFE training seminar on hydrological networks and methods to be held in Bangkok in July, 1959.
The World Health Organization welcomed the establishment of the Commission and considered that, especially as the Commission was empowered to deal with the social aspects of economic development, joint action between the World Health Organization and the Commission might well be even more profitable than the collaboration between WHO and the other regional economic commissions.

WHO's activities in Africa already covered more than thirty-six countries and territories. To meet the shortage of national medical and para-medical personnel, WHO, departing from its usual fellowship policy, had awarded long-term fellowships to 1,168 African students for undergraduate studies in medicine and sanitation abroad over the last ten years. Emphasis had also been laid on assisting Governments to develop their education and training facilities in both professional and auxiliary schools, the Higher Institute of Nursing, the Sanitary Engineering College, and the Higher Institute of Public Health in Egypt being examples of establishments to which other African countries could send their students. However, lack of primary and secondary educational facilities was an obstacle to the recruitment of students for medical and para-medical education.

WHO had also assisted Governments by demonstrating techniques for controlling and preventing a number of prevalent communicable diseases. Examples were the yaws control programmes in Nigeria and Liberia, and the venereal diseases and endemic syphilis control programmes in Ethiopia. The campaign to eradicate malaria, a disease which was estimated to affect 116 million people in Africa south of the Sahara, had already met with success in the Union of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Swaziland and Madagascar. Experience had been pooled and a number of pilot projects initiated for field studies under different geographical and climatic conditions. The decisive consideration at the moment seemed to be economic rather than technical,
and if Governments could see definite possibilities of economic development, they would no doubt be able to finance malaria eradication programmes which would avoid wastage in manpower and material.

Since 1955 WHO had conducted systematic research into the prevalence of tuberculosis in some of the most remote areas of Africa. Control programmes, including B.C.G. vaccination, had been initiated in Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Gambia, Nigeria and Sudan, and a research project on the chemo-therapy of the disease was under way in Tunisia. General economic development, by raising the standard of living, would help to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis.

Malnutrition, in addition to causing deficiency diseases, retarded physical development in the child with consequent loss of work capacity in the adult. The phenomenon was widespread in Africa. WHO had therefore been assisting a number of Governments in carrying out special studies and organizing seminars and training courses (jointly with FAO) in the field of nutrition.

Health services in Africa were generally deficient both in quality and quantity, and in some areas economic crises had actually led to reductions in health budgets or modifications in long-term health plans.

To assess needs and ascertain trends, it was essential to have statistical information but there was a great lack of such data in African countries and no uniformity in the few published data. The work already carried out by vital and health statistical services should not be duplicated but grants might be made to strengthen existing services by training staff and by direct financing of pilot projects for the systematic diagnosis of causes of death within a clearly defined population over a period of years. The vital and health statistical field seemed to be one in which WHO as well as the United Nations Statistical Office might take an interest and technical responsibility.
It was hardly necessary to dwell upon WHO's interest in economic development. If the people was to attain the highest possible level of health, it was obviously essential to raise its general standard of living. WHO was prepared to collaborate with the Commission in the great and concerted effort required to achieve economic development in Africa. Any such effort would, however, demand careful planning and co-ordination of resources, and it was essential for the specialized agencies concerned to be brought in at an early stage.

Mr. MBOYA (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) which had devoted special attention to African problems since its inception, often felt that Africa's problems were not seen and tackled with the interest of the African people as the primary concern. African countries, despite their social, economic and political diversity, were faced with a vast number of common problems: social problems due to the expansion of the exchange sector and the resultant decay of the traditional subsistence economy; lack of capital and skill; monoculture, with a consequent vulnerability to fluctuations in world prices; malnutrition; ill health; poor housing, and educational backwardness. In view of the need for co-ordinated efforts to solve those common problems, the ICFTU greatly welcomed the Commission's establishment and hoped that the problems would be dealt with in their proper perspective.

Economic development was essential for social progress, and one of the indispensable factors in their development was labour. The African worker already played a vital part in the economic and social processes.
The ICFTU was convinced that self-government, which was rapidly spreading throughout Africa, would open great possibilities for economic and social development. It would enable the peoples of Africa not only to embark on development programmes in the best interests of their own countries but also to establish relations with other countries on the basis of equality and progressively to co-ordinate their economies with those of other countries.

The free trade unions acknowledged the contributions made by metropolitan countries to the development of Africa's resources, especially in recent years but must point out that capital investment had been concentrated on the extractive industries and that the peoples of Africa had benefited only to a relatively small extent from the exploitation of the continent's natural resources. Investment in health, education and social services had not been given the attention it deserved.

It was, hence, to be hoped that the Governments of the industrialized countries would contribute as fully as possible to African development plans. Private capital, too, would be welcome provided that it respected the social and political rights and aspirations of the people. Systematic international action on a vast scale was absolutely necessary for the economic development and social progress of Africa. Existing international institutions for the financing of development projects, for instance, were by no means sufficient and, in view of the narrow limits set on the lending activities of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the establishment of a special United Nations fund to finance general development projects which were not self-supporting would have been extremely desirable. It was to be urgently hoped that the scope of the Special Fund, once in operation, would be enlarged.

While the ICFTU favoured in principle all efforts to break down artificial national barriers to economic development, the possible effects of the European Common Market on Africa's economic and social development should be considered most carefully; any plans for the association of African territories with the Common Market should be prepared and executed with the consent and co-operation of the territories concerned.
In spite of continuing improvement in the levels of agricultural production both for subsistence and for marketing and of increasing industrialization, the pace of general economic expansion in Africa was agonizingly slow. There had, for example, been very little progress in the electric power, steel, cement and construction industries; improvement in wage levels, working conditions and social security was equally slow.

Africa still lacked firm foundations for economic expansion. Transport and communication facilities needed to be rapidly increased and scientific farming and the establishment of producer, marketing and credit co-operatives must be actively furthered.

Apart from the general development plans in Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt, there were large hydro-electric development schemes such as the Inga, Volta and Aswan projects. But many of those schemes suffered from lack of co-ordination and foresight and from shortage of capital. That was one field of activity to which he hoped the Commission would give high priority.

Since many African countries depended for their main export income on a few commodities or often a single commodity, fluctuations in commodity prices were a constant threat to their economic stability. The ICFTU accordingly was strongly in favour of the conclusion of international commodity agreements backed up by national price stabilization schemes.

Higher productivity was of course essential to social progress. Admittedly, the productivity of African labour was often low, but that was due largely to low wages, to lack of education and training facilities, to the prevalence of racial discrimination and in many cases to the inefficiency of the entrepreneurs themselves.

Conditions should be created that would render the migration of labour unnecessary in Africa and the grave shortage of facilities for primary, secondary and technical education should be remedied. Though still a minority, wage-earning and salaried employees in Africa had at least doubled in number in twenty years. The number organized in free trade unions had also grown and at the end of 1957, ICFTU had had twenty-one affiliated
organizations in Africa with a total membership of nearly 1,300,000. The free and democratic trade unions had an important role to play in inculcating new social values and teaching the individual his rights and responsibilities. The trade unions should therefore be taken into full partnership at every level to ensure that the industrial revolution sweeping through Africa would be no more painful than was necessary and that its burden and its fruits would be equally shared by all. Most Governments in Africa tended to take a paternalistic attitude towards the trade unions, hampering their growth and independence by legislative provisions. Both non-African and African employers should realize their duty to promote the social welfare of their workers and establish labour relations on a basis of human rights and equality.

The free trade union movement, alive to its responsibilities, promised full cooperation in the efforts of the Commission to banish poverty and injustice from the African continent.

Mr. BARUK (International Chamber of Commerce), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) welcomed the Commission's establishment. It was convinced that the problem of economic development could be solved only by the expansion of international trade and increasing cooperation between governmental and private circles.

ICC had already established permanent liaison offices at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) on the lines of its offices at UN Headquarters. There was hardly a meeting of ECE or ECAFE in which it did not play an active part, co-operating in such matters as the international definition of "Transport on own account", the organization of a European system of consultations between carriers and users, limitation of road carriers' liability, international trade fairs, commercial arbitration and the simplification of customs formalities. Recourse to ICC arbitration was provided for in the standard conditions of sale and supply established by ECE.
ICC's work on the standardization of trade practices could be of great benefit to international trade, but many improvements required government sanction which could only be obtained through inter-governmental organizations. ICC was therefore in close touch with such organizations and more particularly with the United Nations itself.

Several points in the Commission's draft programme of work had already been studied at length by ICC, which could thus put forward reasoned views based on thorough discussion in its thirty-eight National Committees (four of them in Africa) and in its international technical committees.

Miss Wheeler (World Young Women's Christian Association), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, regretted that the speaker on behalf of the World YWCA could not be an African woman. Her organization particularly welcomed the inclusion in the Commission's terms of reference of the mention of the social aspects of economic development in the plans for concerted action. She enumerated the branches of the World YWCA in Africa, some of long standing and others established within the last ten years, and outlined the principles of membership and service in her organization.

The main concerns of the YWCA in relation to economic development were the improvement of the status of women, equal opportunities in educational and vocational training, and measures to counteract the evil effects of large-scale migration of youth and women to the cities. Although the educational advancement of women and girls was a basic factor in the improvement of their lot, equal educational facilities were not per se sufficient, for women and girls were exposed to particular difficulties in adjusting themselves to social and ethical problems which confronted them as they emerged from family or tribal life into the modern world and into industrial areas. While urban life offered new freedom and opportunities for women there were serious dangers such as prostitution and juvenile delinquency which could be prevented by better educational facilities and labour conditions, better housing and social services. The expansion of administrative services and economic life in large towns had brought many women into
employment in the towns, and frequently the YWCA was called on by Governments or employers
to open new hostels for such workers; but more often the need had to be met by
voluntary efforts and by financial assistance from YWCA branches in other countries.
She outlined her organization's plans for opening new hostels in different parts of
Africa and described the standards it laid down.

She urged the Commission, in establishing its work priorities, to take into
consideration such matters as housing in urban areas; the creation of adequate hostels
for youth and women in the cities; educational and vocational training for girls drawn
into the labour market, with special attention to the problem of early school leaving;
healthy leisure-time activities for young people; and the role of women and girls in
community development projects. The World YWCA believed that recognition by the
Commission of the importance of such matters would strengthen the work of the voluntary
agencies, which were sorely in need of the support of the United Nations and of
Governments.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.
FOURTH MEETING

Held on Wednesday, 31 December 1958, at 10.50 a.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The CHAIRMAN called upon the Executive Secretary, who had a message to communicate to the Commission.

Mr. Mekki ABBAS, (Executive Secretary) said he had pleasure in announcing to the Commission that the Ethiopian Parliament had ratified the agreement concluded between His Imperial Majesty's Government and the Secretariat regarding the establishment of the Commission's headquarters in Ethiopia and the privileges accorded to the members of the Secretariat.

GENERAL DEBATE (resumed from the third meeting)

Mr. MADAN (Kenya and Zanzibar) said that the Governments which he represented would offer their full co-operation to the Commission. He was gratified to note that the Commission's objectives included concerted action for the economic development of Africa, and for an investigation and studies of economic and technological problems. Those aims reflected interests common to all countries of Africa, and if they were pursued on a strictly economic basis, the necessary action to raise the levels of living and increase the general welfare of the continent could be carried out successfully without clash or friction.

He considered that the Commission should endeavour to extend existing projects which, precisely because they took into account diverse interests of the different countries and territories, could be the more easily implemented. It should take pains to ensure that its activities were harmoniously co-ordinated with the programmes of the Governments of the countries and territories concerned.

So far as statistics were concerned, he thought the Commission would perform a supplementary service. In Kenya and Zanzibar the work-load of the statistical services was so heavy that they could not assume any further commitments - whether the
supply of further statistical information or the training of statisticians -
without careful study.

With regard to the training of personnel, he said the Governments of Kenya and
Zanzibar would not, in view of their limited resources, be able to send students abroad
or receive foreign students unless scholarships were made available to help defray the
costs involved.

In conclusion, he pointed out that, at least in Kenya's case, vocational training
facilities should be offered to all the inhabitants of the territory, and that those
inhabitants who were sometimes wrongly called "immigrants" had become an integral part
of the indigenous populations and hence were fully entitled, in every respect, to
equal status with the other citizens.

Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) thanked His Imperial Majesty for his prayers and for the
success of the Commission's work and for the hospitality which he and his Government had so
generously offered to the members of the Commission. He congratulated the Chairman on
his election; he also thanked the Commission for the honour bestowed on him by his
election as Vice-Chairman.

He had read with interest the Executive Secretary's excellent memorandum on the
programme of work and priorities (E/CN.14/4), and he wished to refer to certain
methods of approach which, he believed, might help the Commission to attain its
objectives. In the first place, he mentioned concerted action based on unanimity
among the African countries concerned; only such action would ensure the successful
execution of certain economic and industrial development projects, which should not be
hampered by political boundaries. In addition to the examples previously cited, he
would merely mention the harnessing of the Nile.
His delegation endorsed the Executive Secretary's suggestion regarding the other functions which the Commission might assume, such as the provision of information, research and statistical services, and the provision of training, advisory services and related assistance to Governments. He would like to interpret "Governments" as meaning "through Governments", since, in his opinion, provision should also be made for assistance to private enterprise. He had specifically in mind the fishing industry in Liberia, which had been completely taken over by private enterprise but which might be keenly interested in a regional survey of the subject.

As far as vocational training was concerned, he said that, while scholarships and fellowships in foreign parts were of undoubted value to the African student, they were not, in his opinion, the most effective way of forming that nucleus of trained staff which the African economy so badly needed. It would be preferable to strengthen existing institutions so that they could serve as on-the-spot training centres for larger numbers of students.

In that way economic development programmes could be more judiciously geared to the rate of development of the people for whom they were designed. For while industrialization was clearly an essential factor in the economic development of the African countries, an industrial economy must not be abruptly and indiscriminately superimposed on a subsistence economy.

To reach the goal of the African countries, which was to deliver the peoples from poverty, ignorance and disease and enable them gradually to participate in economic life, it was necessary first to give training at the highest levels to the youth of the country, male and female alike. The masses would then be made productive and shielded from the exploitation of those who lived on their labour.
Mr. FLETCHER-COOKE (Tanganyika) said that the Government of Tanganyika had had frequent occasion to work with organs of the United Nations and in particular with the Trusteeship Council to which for twelve years, in its reports on the administration of the Territory, it had furnished a mass of information, much of which bore upon matters falling within the scope of the Commission's terms of reference. Tanganyika therefore welcomed the establishment of the Commission. It had always felt that all countries of the continent, irrespective of their political status, were faced with much the same economic and social problems and that the study of those problems in common would be most profitable to all concerned.

Furthermore, the Commission contained representatives of all the countries which had an interest in the continent and experience of its peculiar problems and circumstances.

Referring to Tanganyika's problems, he said that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development had agreed to send a mission of economic experts in 1959 to survey the Territory's economy and explore its economic possibilities. He also wished to pay a tribute to the work done by experts of FAO, UNICEF and WHO in their respective fields, and to the fine service performed by the specialists sent out by the Technical Assistance Administration, from whose fellowship programme Tanganyika had also benefited.

The Commission's programme of work should, he thought, include a study of the question of topographical maps. Map coverage of Africa generally was inadequate, although topographical maps were essential as a basis for the geological mapping and communication maps necessary for economic development activities. He hoped also that the Commission would study problems attending the development and financing of small and cottage industries. Such problems, which had been studied and successfully solved in Asia, were of considerable importance to Tanganyika.
Finally, he said that Tanganyika was willing to give those countries that were interested the benefit of its rich experience acquired in community development and the cooperative movement. He had no doubt that if the Commission made it possible for all African countries to pool ideas, efforts and experience, they would succeed in improving the conditions of life of the many millions who inhabited the continent.

Mr. SHIATI (United Arab Republic) said that the establishment of the Commission opened up for the countries of Africa the prospect of a more prosperous future.

Inasmuch as the economy of those countries was predominantly agrarian, agriculture stood in need of rapid development. At the same time, however, the industrialization of Africa was no less indispensable, if only for the purpose of absorbing the manpower released in consequence of the mechanization of agriculture. At the moment, Africa was suffering from the effects of the prevailing weakness in the prices of its primary export commodities, and as a consequence the balance of payments position of the African countries affected had deteriorated. Moreover, he stressed that means of communication and transport were still poor in Africa.

He hoped that, thanks to the spirit of cooperation which imbued its members, the Commission would contribute to the economic recovery of the continent and to the attainment of political independence on the part of all the associate members. In the performance of its functions the Commission would draw on the experience of the other regional commissions and of the Economic Council of the League of Arab States.

In conclusion, he described some of the results achieved recently by his country in the field of industrialization, with the aid of credits provided by different countries.

Mr. KAREFA-SMART (Gambia and Sierra Leone) congratulated the Chairman upon his election at the historic first session of the Economic Commission for Africa.
He said he would be speaking as the representative not only of Sierra Leone but also of Gambia, which had been unable to send a delegation to the session. The two countries were confident that the Commission would play an increasingly important part in the development of the African continent.

Describing the problems facing Gambia, an essentially agricultural country whose economic life was based entirely on the ground nut crop, he said that the fall in price of that commodity during the past few years had meant a lowering of the already marginal standard of living of the people. The authorities were striving in a variety of ways to cope with the situation, and at the same time endeavouring to establish industries. As yet, the results were not encouraging, and the delegation of Gambia hoped to receive helpful advice to which it pledged its full support, in solving those various problems.

With regard to his own country, Sierra Leone, he said that fluctuations in world commodity prices had aggravated the country's difficulties in respect of the control and disposal of alluvial diamonds. It had therefore had to modify its development programme somewhat, but it felt sure that the setback was only temporary.

There were two particular problems facing the Government of Sierra Leone, which sincerely hoped that the Commission would be able to help in finding a solution. The first was the vital problem of collecting demographic information, since there had been no census in Sierra Leone for twenty-seven years. The second was the system of land tenure, which would have to be revised in the light of modern economic needs.

Mr. MAHEU (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) gave an indication of the contribution his organization could make to the economic and social development of the African countries in respect both of natural resources and of human resources. Africa was a continent in which the problem of the conservation of natural resources was acute. The International Union for Conservation
of Nature and Natural Resources, a non-governmental organization set up under the sponsorship of UNESCO in 1948, was doing all it could to draw attention to such questions. He stressed the work being done by UNESCO in regard to the arid lands with the object of promoting scientific research into hydrology, vegetable, animal and human ecology, solar radiation, and the locust control campaign being conducted in conjunction with FAO and WMO. Such research was of special importance for Africa, since most of the continent consisted of arid or semi-arid lands. UNESCO was carrying out similar work on the tropical humid zone which constituted a large part of Africa.

Riches were man-made and for man's use, and natural resources meant nothing without human resources. For that reason, as a preliminary to any development, education was the fundamental condition, as His Imperial Majesty had pointed out in his inaugural address; hence the States of Africa should give pride of place to education in their economic and social development plans. In that connexion he referred to the literacy campaigns carried out by UNESCO. Fundamental education centres had been formed in Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Somaliland, Sudan and Tunisia, in addition to the original centre set up in Egypt in 1953 for the Arab countries of Africa and Asia. UNESCO had likewise taken a great interest in primary education in Africa, where there was a pronounced lag between school attendance and demographic growth. It had accorded assistance to Libya, Sudan and Tunisia for the purpose of resolving some administrative problems in the organization of their educational systems, and had helped in the training of primary school teachers in certain countries of Africa (Liberia, Libya, Sierra Leone). So far as secondary and technical training was concerned, he referred to the UNESCO regional programme for tropical Africa, the object of which was to enable the secondary schools to train primary school teachers and the administrative and technical personnel essential to the economic and social progress of the African
countries. High priority was given in that programme to scientific training and to
the education of girls. In the matter of higher education, UNESCO had noted that the
social sciences generally received less prominence than the natural sciences; actually,
however, the social sciences would have a most important function to perform at the
present stage of development of Africa, for the first aim should be to enable the
Africans to gain an objective understanding of development, to adjust themselves to a
rapidly evolving world, and to discover new social forms appropriate to their own
evolution. UNESCO had concentrated most of all on questions of urbanization and the
social consequences of industrialization. In his opening address, His Imperial Majesty
had stressed the historic meaning of the Commission's meeting; UNESCO would not fail
to make its contribution to the Commission's historic task and placed all its
resources at the Commission's disposal.

Mr. EL ZUBEIR (International Labour Organisation) said that since 1919 the
scope of ILO's activities had spread from social policy into many other fields -
problems of manpower, improvement of productivity and co-operation between employers
and workers. In addition, the ILO was now concerned with agriculture, small-scale
industry, co-operatives, and atomic energy.

The ILO would spare no effort to help the countries of Africa in attaining their
objectives. His organization was already engaged in studies of labour standards,
vocational training and social security programmes, in preparing model labour codes,
and in the organization of co-operatives in the under-developed countries, including
those of Africa. A field office of the ILO was being established at Lagos; a committee,
formed on a tripartite basis, had been set up to advise the Governing Body of the ILO
on African problems and on the repercussions of world problems in Africa. So far as
North Africa was concerned, the Governing Body of the ILO had agreed to the formation
of a regional consultative body of experts which would, in 1960, study a report now
being prepared by the ILO concerning manpower problems in North Africa. In conclusion,
he said that the ILO would place at the disposal of the Commission and its members the experience it had acquired in the study of manpower questions.

Mr. LILLIEFELT (Resident Representative of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board in Ethiopia) read a statement by Mr. David Owen, Chairman of TAB, which laid special stress on the work of the regional commissions. For example, the studies of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and of the Economic Commission for Latin America had led to the execution of many technical assistance projects. It was to be expected that the work of the Economic Commission for Africa would produce like results. Accordingly, TAB hoped that Africa would, as in the past, receive the benefit of steadily growing technical assistance. Inasmuch as such assistance depended on the resources of the Expanded Programme, it was gratifying to note that, at its thirteenth session, the General Assembly of the United Nations had appealed to Governments to contribute to the Expanded Programme in amounts which would provide for the gradual expansion of the Programme (resolution 1255 (XIII)).

Mr. EHRENSTRALE (United Nations Children's Fund), speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), assured the Secretariat of the Commission of UNICEF's full collaboration in all spheres of common interest to the two bodies. UNICEF was concerned with the continuing needs of children, particularly in the under-developed countries; in consultation with and at the request of the Governments concerned, it provided material help in the form of imported equipment and supplies and stipends for training, but its activities were concentrated on improving the health and nutrition of children, thereby contributing to the removal of some obstacles to economic development.

In health matters, UNICEF, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), was assisting Governments in campaigns against yaws, leprosy, trachoma and malaria.
In addition, it provided technical equipment for the extension of permanent health services and assisted in the training of personnel.

With regard to nutrition, UNICEF had been actively concerned in collaboration with FAO, in developing protein-rich foods from indigenous sources such as fish, and flour from oil-seed, and nut presscake. In Nigeria, for instance, it was helping one Government project for the production and distribution of a mixture of locally produced skim milk powder and ground nut flour.

For some twelve months UNICEF had followed a policy of expanded aid to Governments in their work of developing whatever might contribute to the improvement of family food production at the village level (school gardens, family poultry yards).

UNICEF had at the moment seven field offices in Africa: at Addis Ababa, Brazzaville, Dakar, Entebbe, Kampala, Lagos and Cairo.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

FIFTH MEETING

Held on Wednesday, 31 December 1958, at 3.25 p.m.

GENERAL DEBATE (concluded)

Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom) said that his Government intended to play a constructive part in the Commission's work, just as it had worked actively for many years with the other economic commissions of the United Nations. There were lessons to be drawn from the experience of those bodies which ECA would do well to bear in mind to ensure smooth running.

The common aim of all concerned was to improve the standard of living of the African peoples. If that aim was to be achieved, the work of the Commission must be conducted in an atmosphere of goodwill and friendship, and he urged all delegations
to keep strictly to economic problems, leaving any political differences to be aired in other international and domestic forums. The co-operation between countries of western and eastern Europe in the Economic Commission for Europe proved that it could be done.

The Commission should face the fact that it was not possible to tackle simultaneously all the formidable problems of Africa, and should plan its work and establish priorities in the manner best calculated to produce practical results. As the Belgian representative had said, the Commission must avoid duplicating projects already under way in Africa. Documents E/CN.14/5 and E/CN.14/7 showed that considerable United Nations activity was already being carried out in certain fields in Africa. Nor should the International Co-operation Administration programme provided by the United States Government and the work being done south of the Sahara by the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa (CCTA), in which his Government played an active part, be overlooked. A document (E/CN.14/11) on the general scope and activities of the latter body was being circulated at his delegation's request; for contact with CTCA would benefit ECA and help in the pooling of ideas and knowledge. Work on a vast scale was already being undertaken by the Governments with responsibilities in Africa. His own Government held the view expressed by His Imperial Majesty in his inaugural address to the Commission, that political and economic progress should go hand in hand. It was the central aim of the United Kingdom's colonial policy to guide its territories towards responsible self-government within the Commonwealth. He considered that the African continent as a whole benefited from that policy, and the experience of his Government could
undoubtedly be of use to the Commission. He gave information in some detail regarding the post-war programmes of development carried out by the United Kingdom in the African territories for which it was responsible, with the help of capital provided by the territories themselves, and large contributions both by the taxpayers and the Government of the United Kingdom through various channels. The total financial assistance given by the United Kingdom Government to the dependent African territories between 1946 and 1958 was some £175 million. On the non-official side there were loans on the London money market and by private investment. The figure of £200 million fixed capital formation in those countries in 1957 was nearly three times that of 1948, and their national income had been rising at a rate of about 4 per cent per annum in recent years. In addition there was a constant influx of advisers and technicians on all subjects to the United Kingdom's dependent African territories. Thus a tremendous effort was being made by his Government to raise the standards of living in those territories; but enormous tasks still lay ahead. In pursuance of its policies and principles, the United Kingdom Government had only that very day announced the imminent introduction of legislation to extend colonial development and to provide direct government loans under a new system, supplementing the amounts raised by public floatations on the London capital market. He was proud to see representatives from his Government's dependent territories as associate members of the Commission. Not only was his Government giving economic assistance to the British dependent territories but it was contributing to the economic well-being of a number of other African countries represented on the Commission.

He summarised his statement in terms of unity of purpose; economics and not polemics; profiting from past experience, not trying to accomplish everything at once; and not wasting effort.
Mr. SLIM (Tunisia) said that there had been great changes in Africa over the years in response to the legitimate political aspirations of the African peoples and their pressing demands for freedom. At the recent conferences at Accra and Tangiers, many of the African independent States had cooperated with the object of helping the non-independent countries to attain independence by peaceful means and also of advising colonial Powers to enter into free partnership with the peoples under their administration and to avoid bloodshed and violence on the African continent. His Government hoped that the wise policy shown by some colonial Powers, to which the representative of Nigeria had referred, might be extended to other parts of Africa, thus hastening the emancipation of all Africans. In the past the African States and the Powers administering dependent territories had pursued separate policies without consultation among themselves and without any thought of Africa as a whole. With the establishment of the Commission, there would be concerted action to formulate a common policy for the whole African continent.

There were extensive resources in countries which were still living in poverty and backwardness. The world could be divided into the well-to-do and highly-developed countries and the poor and less developed and, in his view, Africa as a whole belonged to the latter group. It was essential for the Commission to have a clear vision of the future economy of Africa as a whole and to decide judiciously on the priorities of its work.

Africa should not remain outside the modern economic trend in favour of large economic units and it was in keeping with that trend that Tunisia had tried to co-operate
closely with its neighbours since it had become independent. The war on Tunisia’s borders and the suspension or reduction of bilateral aid since it had attained independence had handicapped it in its economic development, but had not prevented it from facing the urgent tasks of agricultural, industrial and social development, and from working on land reclamation and irrigation. A national monetary institute had been established and a new currency introduced, while future plans included the construction of dams, paper mills and a textile plant. Moreover, twenty-five per cent of Tunisia’s budget was devoted to education, social security and welfare.

He considered that the Commission should give particular attention to the problems resulting from the continuous increase in the African population and should study the rapid and systematic exploitation of African agricultural resources. In view of the vast water resources of Africa, irrigation schemes should play a decisive part in economic development.

To further Africa’s economic development and raise its standard of living, it was essential for its basic industries to be so organized as to turn its mineral resources to the best possible account and enable the continent to meet its own needs in manufactured goods. Such a policy would also provide its vast manpower reserves with opportunities for skilled employment.

But such a wholesale rationalization of the continent’s economy would call for an immense volume of capital investment. In that connexion, he gratefully acknowledged the offers of co-operation made by the industrialized Powers and declared his country’s readiness to do its share by maintaining a favourable climate for investment. It had already given a clear indication of its policy in that respect by offering protection and favourable terms to foreign capital.
On all such matters the excellent draft programme of work submitted by the Executive Secretary appeared to afford a sound basis for action.

In the matter of relations with inter-governmental organizations, his delegation would welcome the establishment of relations with the Accra Conference of Independent African States, whose nature and role were sufficiently well known, and with the Permanent Secretariat of the Tangiers Conference, which had a definite programme of action for economic and social development.

He wished to thank the European Powers for their generous offers of co-operation and the benefit of their long experience. Their technical assistance, which had undoubtedly contributed largely to Africa's technical and social development, was very necessary and would always be welcome so long as it involved no limitation on the sovereignty of the countries concerned. In that connexion, he regretted that the session had been deprived of the counsel of the Union of South Africa through that country's decision not to attend. He hoped that its absence was purely temporary and did not mean that the Commission would not concern itself with the welfare and development of the South African peoples. Its interests surely embraced the whole continent.
Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (France) recalled that in the course of the debate which had culminated in the establishment of ECA, his delegation had repeatedly affirmed its intention to co-operate in the work of the new body. The present composition of the French delegation was not, however, necessarily the one which would eventually be chosen to represent the various African States and territories members of the French Community, in view of their recent decision to place their relations with France on a new basis. The Community was still busy setting up its main institutions and they would not be finally established before April.

The problem of determining ECA's specific role within the complex of other activities designed to promote Africa's economic development was facilitated by the experience of the other regional commissions and the efforts made to assist under-developed countries.

It was generally agreed that in view of Africa's abundant natural resources, what was needed for its economic development was technical knowledge and capital. ECA might usefully consider the directions in which the continent's development would most benefit its inhabitants. He believed that priority should be given to improving living conditions, particularly nutrition, ensuring better prices for Africa's raw materials, and encouraging a diversified economy, by industrialization wherever feasible.

The question of commodity prices was, of course, one which called for close cooperation between ECA and FAO. Price fluctuations had been a serious obstacle to economic planning in African countries, the more so as most depended heavily upon a single product for their revenue. Accordingly, as the Executive Secretary of ECLA had forcefully pointed out more than once, any corrective measures adopted in respect of commodity prices should be coupled with measures, such as diversification and industrialization, to protect the under-developed countries from the dangers of dependence on commodity exports.
Since diversification must be regarded as a long-term goal, however, the immediate objective should be increased revenue from commodity exports, which were the African countries' main source of funds for the purchase of capital goods.

Another important factor affecting the income of commodity-exporting countries was, of course, the quantity exported. Industrialized countries might make an important contribution to the economic progress of commodity-exporting countries by stabilizing their own industries and, hence, their imports of commodities.

Mr. BEN KIRANE (Morocco) thanked His Imperial Majesty and the Ethiopian authorities for their efforts to make the first session of the Economic Commission for Africa a success. The Government of Morocco welcomed the establishment of the Commission, which it regarded as a victory in the struggle of the African peoples to secure the management of their own affairs.

The recent Accra Conference had adopted a number of very important resolutions to which he thought the Commission should give its attention, especially the resolution on economic co-operation between African States.
The establishment of the Commission was a logical outcome not only of the economic situation but of historical evolution. It should be noted, however, that the Commission differed from the other regional economic commissions in that relatively few countries of Africa had achieved independence.

The Commission's terms of reference (E/CN.14/1) attached importance to social as well as to economic development. In that connexion, he would point out that the economic development of a dependent country did not always involve an improvement in the social and cultural level of the population. For example, vast sums had been spent on the exploitation of oil in Algeria, but the people themselves had not benefited. The Commission should bear that in mind. He hoped the European countries represented at the session would seize the opportunity to revise their policies in the light of the changed circumstances and help the peoples of Africa to achieve political independence, which was a sine qua non of economic and social development. He also hoped that all African countries would agree to work with the Commission.

Some European Powers had adopted a hostile attitude to their former protectorates and colonies. In that connexion, he welcomed the promise of the Italian representative that Italy would continue to help Somaliland after the latter achieved independence in 1960.

The Commission had an immense task before it, for the needs were enormous and the resources limited. It had in its favour, however, the faith and determination which were characteristic of the modern African. The Government of Morocco was prepared to
place at the Commission's disposal all its experience in such matters as agricultural
reform, soil renovation, and the literacy campaign.

Commenting on the Executive Secretary's memorandum concerning the programme of work
(E/CN.14/4), he said that in his delegation's opinion certain tasks were of particular
importance. First, all States which had recently achieved independence should be given
immediate and urgent assistance, for such countries were often neglected by the former
Administering Powers. Another important task was to co-ordinate the various forms of
aid which the United Nations and specialized agencies could provide. Thirdly, African
States should be protected from political pressure, and special attention should there-
fore be given to the question of multilateral aid. Fourthly, the Non-Self-Governing
Territories should be assisted in their efforts to achieve independence.

Furthermore, the Commission should deal with such problems as boundary questions
raised by colonialism. For example, Mauretania had been detached from the mother
country for imperialist reasons alone.

The Commission should encourage regional economic agreements among African States,
for such agreements were conducive to economic progress. A conference might perhaps
be called to consider the diversification of commodity production, with special reference
to the situation created by the establishment of the European Common Market.

The Commission should, naturally, study the question of industrialization, which,
if carried out on a non-colonial basis, might help to solve the problem of feeding
the growing population of Africa.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the African countries would display political
maturity and courage in their efforts to develop their economies and preserve peace.

Mr. TOURE (Guinea) greeted the members of the Commission on behalf of the
Government and people of Guinea and thanked the Ethiopian authorities for their
welcome.

On 28 September 1958, Guinea had been given the choice between so-called autonomy
within the French Union and independence. Preferring poverty with freedom to wealth
in slavery, it had chosen independence, though as a consequence it had forfeited
French economic aid. He was sure that the world had approved his country's choice,
and indeed Guinea had now been admitted to membership in the United Nations by an
almost unanimous decision of the General Assembly.

Though his country had sustained an economic setback through the withdrawal of
French aid, he was firmly convinced that the achievement of political independence was
an indispensable preliminary to economic and social advancement. In that connexion,
he particularly welcomed the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa, for
he hoped that it would help to solve some of Guinea's economic problems. The African
nations had to rely on the help and technical assistance of the economically developed
countries; and the United Nations provided an ideal framework for the administration of
that assistance.

The African continent was immensely rich in natural resources, the development of
which, subject to respect for the sovereignty, self-determination and freedom of the
African nations themselves, would help to create the conditions essential for the main-
tenance of world peace. The Republic of Guinea itself, for example, was rich in bauxite
and iron, but the economic infrastructure was lacking and the country was unable to make
good that deficiency by its own efforts.
The first aim of all African territories should be independence. There was a powerful movement in Africa towards political emancipation, and the vestiges of colonialism and paternalism were disappearing fast. He hoped that the technically advanced nations would help the new Africa to develop its resources and civilization, and to assert its distinctive personality. The development of Africa should be regarded as a world problem, and not as a purely regional problem, for economic underdevelopment was hardly a state of affairs conducive to the maintenance of peace.

The CHAIRMAN said that the French representative had asked for the floor to reply to statements made during the debate. In accordance with rule 45 of the rules of procedure, he called on the representative of France.

Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (France) said he regretted that a political element had been introduced into the debate and that the discussion had thus been taken beyond the limits of the Commission's terms of reference.

Since his delegation had no wish to encourage that trend, he would merely refer, so far as Mauretania was concerned, to the statement made by the responsible leader of that country, who had been elected by universal suffrage.

Mr. RAKOTOBE (International Federation of Christian Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that while, with the exception of a few parts of the continent, the African countries now described as under-developed had not experienced directly the horrors of the Second World War, they had nevertheless been subjected to sufferings no less severe, since they were largely dependent on trade with Europe, and the economic effects of the conflict were still being felt. The establishment of the Commission filled them with hope of a brighter future.
It was doubtful whether political action alone was enough to ensure world peace; failure to satisfy the elementary economic and social needs also contributed to political instability. To make good that failure, joint action by all nations was needed to remove the blatant disparities in levels of living. That task could not be successfully discharged unless all countries, and particularly the economically developed ones, recognized their duty to help the countries at present under-developed.

Retarded economic development had often been due, particularly in Africa, to colonial exploitation. By affirming the goal of political emancipation, the Charter of the United Nations had corrected the mistake made in Article 22 of the League of Nations Covenant, which had been interpreted by some countries as a licence to exploit the territories over which they were given authority.

A matter to which the Commission should give special attention was the false claim that birth control was the only way of dealing with the problem created by the combined effects of population growth and improved public health in most of the countries of Africa. The real solution lay in the co-ordination of trade and production, for it was inadequate food production, wastage and the exclusive pursuit of profit which were keeping millions of human beings in a permanent state of under-nourishment.

The IFCTU was prepared to support the Commission to the full and to place its experience at the Commission’s disposal.

The Commission’s task was defined in terms of the economic problems with which it had to deal, but it should be remembered that economic under-development was partly due to the under-development of the human resources. It was important, therefore, that the peoples should be associated with the Commission’s endeavours. For that
purpose, the people would have to be educated, and in that connexion some co-
ordination would be required between the work of the Commission and that of the
specialized agencies. The people should also be kept informed of current events.
In all such efforts, action should be adapted to the mentality of the people
concerned, for otherwise only confusion would result.

By surveys and studies, and the compilation of statistics, the Commission would
acquire a first-hand knowledge of the situation in the region. Direct contact with
the people would be essential.

In economic matters, IFCTU would recommend the establishment of an emergency
programme which would make provision for the improvement of food production. The
chronic state of malnutrition in which most of Africa's population was living could
not be overcome unless the excessive tendency to monoculture was checked. As part of
a long-term programme, some measure of industrialization might be considered, as a
means both of providing work for the growing population and of utilizing the locally
available materials instead of expensive imported products.

To enable the workers and the population in general to benefit from such
industrialization, the possibilities of associating labour with capital should be
investigated, for the influx of foreign capital did not necessarily enrich a country
so long as the practices of private capitalism, based exclusively on the profit
motive, and often accompanied by interference in the country's political affairs,
prevailed. His Federation recommended the progressive application of the joint
management system, which would give the workers a direct interest in the progress of
the national economy and ensure a measure of social justice.
The Commission might help to place domestic trade on a healthier footing and promote the observance of certain standards. At the international level, it was desirable that, to safeguard the main lines of economic development advocated by the Commission, international conventions should be concluded to regulate the world market in African commodities, and that international contracts relating to trade in those commodities should contain the necessary social provisions.

The Commission should, in his opinion, establish committees dealing with the following questions: agriculture, crafts, timber, status of women, electric power, housing, industry, trade, measures to combat prejudice and discrimination, labour, fishing, population, social questions, statistics, and inland transport.

The Commission should work in close collaboration with the ILO, care being taken to avoid duplication of activity.

In conclusion, he expressed regret that the former French African territories and Madagascar, which had recently become self-governing, had not been admitted to associate membership of the Commission. He would ask the Commission to consider, and France to support, their admission.
Mr. ZAKARIA (World Federation of Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that WFTU looked forward to participating no less closely in the work of ECA than it participated in that of ECAFE and ECLA, since it regarded the Commission as an effective instrument for promoting the economic and social advancement of Africa.

While a number of African countries had admittedly achieved independence in recent years, most of them were still colonies of the European Powers, and economic domination by those Powers, together with the growing penetration of the United States, were the main features of the African economic scene. The economies of the African countries, which were in most cases based on the export of one or two primary commodities, were thus being distorted. For that reason, WFTU and its affiliated organizations in Africa were opposed to the inclusion of African countries in the European Common Market or in any similar schemes designed to perpetuate the domination of European Powers. The African workers and their trade unions considered that the economies of their countries should be developed to satisfy the needs of the people, to provide employment and to secure a higher standard of living. Development should be controlled by the countries themselves. Each country should plan public and control private investments in order to permit the expansion and diversification of the economy. The full co-operation of the people and the participation of the trade unions were indispensable to the success of national development plans.
While the African countries needed aid in carrying out rapid industrialization, the trade unions insisted that no conditions should be attached to such aid. The expansion of industry, controlled by the African countries themselves, was a prerequisite for economic and social progress.

Attention must also be given to the development of agriculture as being at present the most important sector of the African economy. In particular, out-of-date systems of land tenure must be abolished and the standard of living of agricultural workers improved.

Another important matter in which WFTU hoped the Commission would provide assistance was the diversification and development of trade on the basis of equality among nations. It was vital to develop trade not only among African countries but also between Africa and other parts of the world. Trade with the socialist countries, for example, would assure the African countries of the steady long-term markets needed for planned development.

Economic development could not be considered without reference to the conditions of the working people, for it was on their efforts that such development depended. Those conditions must be improved through higher wages, social security schemes, the abolition of discrimination, greater opportunities for vocational training and wider access to education. The adoption of minimum wage laws was a first priority in that respect. In addition to improving the position of the workers, higher wages would help to expand the domestic market, while the introduction of social security schemes would not only prevent destitution, but would facilitate the development of a stable labour force.

WFTU based its whole policy on the unity of all workers without distinction, recognizing that such unity was the key to the achievement of the workers' demands and
to progress for their countries. It therefore wished to emphasize its condemnation of all discrimination and particularly of the policy of apartheid being pursued by the Union of South Africa, which was depriving African workers of access to skilled employment. One of the most important tasks facing the African trade unions and the Economic Commission for Africa was to end all discrimination in wages, in training and in promotion opportunities. Although the major problem was discrimination based on colour, it was no less important to end discrimination against women and discrimination against young people, both of which were widespread in Africa. Economic discrimination was at the root of the whole problem, and the Economic Commission for Africa could, therefore, contribute towards progress by combating discrimination in employment and endeavouring to secure acceptance of the principle of equal pay for equal work.

The role of the trade unions in Africa would grow with the progress of economic development. In many African countries and territories, however, the trade unions had been oppressed or dissolved, while in many territories trade union rights were still not guaranteed. That situation must be corrected in order to enable the trade unions to play their full part in the economic and social development of Africa.

WFTU looked to the Economic Commission for Africa to tackle the problems of industrialization, the development of African economies to meet African needs, the abolition of discrimination and the improvement of wages and living standards. It hoped that the Commission would collect data on those problems in the near future as a basis for its work, as well as information on trade union rights throughout Africa with a view to bringing its influence to bear on Governments which did not respect those rights.

In conclusion, WFTU wished to stress that close consultation with the trade unions was essential at all levels in the development of Africa. For its part, it would do its utmost to make a useful contribution to the Commission's work.
Mr. CHENG PAONAN (China), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa provided gratifying evidence of the African peoples' emergence as sovereign and independent States. His Government would follow the Commission's work with sympathy and interest.

The ultimate aim, in his view, the only aim of ECA, or for that matter of all the other regional economic commissions, was the elimination of poverty, so that the individual of whatever nationality, creed, race, colour or sex could live in dignity and enjoy his fundamental freedoms and human rights. That was, of course, not an aim which could be achieved overnight or by one nation's efforts alone. If properly and wisely utilized, however, ECA could be an effective tool for the elimination of poverty from the continent in a relatively short time through both national and international effort.

During the past ten years, the problem of poverty had been attacked with considerable success in Taiwan. Progress had been achieved in agriculture through the programme of land reform, the scientific use of insecticides and pesticides, up-to-date irrigation methods and the introduction of new crops. Rice was now being exported despite a substantial increase in the population. Economic efforts were to a large extent being concentrated on industrialization. To give only two examples of the results achieved, textiles were at present being exported, although ten years before there had been no textiles industry in Taiwan; two 35,000 ton oil tankers were being completed at dockyards in Taiwan and it was intended to expand shipbuilding facilities to build tankers of up to 70,000 tons. China realized that such a rapid rate of economic improvement could be sustained only by widespread education. Nearly 98 per cent of the children of school age in Taiwan were now attending school and the problem of illiteracy was thus being overcome. All the communicable diseases had been
eliminated as a result of systematic and island-wide campaigns. As a result of the improvement in economic and health conditions, the population of Taiwan was increasing at the rate of 3.6 per cent, but the problem created thereby had, however, been solved by securing an average annual increase of 8 per cent in the per capita income.

Those facts went to show that, with the proper use of the available resources and a determination to succeed, much could be done in a comparatively short time. The results of China's experience, which had been gained at considerable cost and through trial and error, were available to the Commission.

Mr. AKBAR KHAN (Pakistan), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said he was proud to be representing Pakistan in a gesture of goodwill and friendship towards the African countries. The Pakistan delegations to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly had taken a leading part in the establishment of the Commission, since it was the earnest desire of his countrymen that the great nations of Africa should prosper through closer economic co-operation. The continent was rich in resources, largely unexploited. Many African nations had only recently acquired independence, many were still on the road to freedom, while others, though independent, had been unable to make headway because they had not had the proper economic support and guidance. They would now all be able to co-operate. The United Nations was to be congratulated on the establishment of the Commission, belated though it was.

The countries of Africa, though rich in resources, were still far behind in education, level of living and economic status. The Commission had before it a vast field of endeavour. Much labour and toil would be required, not only of the Secretariat, but also of the members and associate members in fulfilling their commitments and discharging their responsibilities. He was sure the United Nations would
do its best to help the Commission to achieve success. It was encouraging to note the Executive Secretary's statement that the United Nations had provided the Commission with more liberal funds than had been given to the other regional economic commissions on their establishment. The assistance which His Imperial Majesty had already provided and was to provide in the future would be an additional factor making for success.

Pakistan's desire for the speedy development of the African nations could be deduced from the fact that one of the few observers nominated by the Asian and Far Eastern countries to attend the present session was from Pakistan. His country was prepared to render the Commission all the assistance within its power. It was keen to maintain economic relations with the great countries of Africa and indeed to collaborate with them to their mutual economic advantage. Africa was the richest continent, not only in mineral and vegetable resources, but also in human material, and if given a proper lead, would make enormous progress. To take only one instance, if the food resources of the Sudan and Ethiopia alone were properly exploited, the world's food problem could easily be solved.

He expressed gratitude for what had been done by His Imperial Majesty, by the Secretary-General and by the Executive Secretary to ensure the success of the Commission's work. The determination expressed by various member countries to make that success a reality was also most welcome.

Mr. TIMOSHCHENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa testified to the fact that the African countries were playing a greater part in world affairs and were beginning to seek solutions for their common economic and social problems on a regional basis.
The Commission could do much to promote the economic development of the countries of Africa. Although the continent possessed extensive natural resources which should be exploited for the benefit of the indigenous population, the majority of the African population lived in poverty and in economic and cultural backwardness. That situation was due to the fact that the colonial regime had turned the African countries into agrarian appendages of the industrially developed Western countries, and because of it, many African countries were still deprived of political independence. Times were changing, however, and colonialism was now suffering defeats at the hands of the national liberation movement. Freedom-loving peoples throughout the world sympathized with the African peoples' desire for real independence, economic development and greater prosperity.

The recent deterioration in the economic situation in a number of industrially developed Western countries had caused a fall in the prices of the traditional exports of the less developed countries and a decline in their foreign exchange earnings. The effect was to limit their ability to purchase expensive equipment and hence to impede their economic development. Those countries were still being adversely affected by the economic recession in the West and their representatives had expressed justifiable apprehensions lest the establishment of the European Common Market should create additional difficulties for them. Those and other problems affecting the economic situation of the African countries would no doubt receive the attention of the Economic Commission for Africa.

Problems of economic development were closely connected with the problem of the maintenance of peace. In accordance with its policy of taking all due steps to bring about the conditions required for lasting peace throughout the world, the USSR was doing its utmost to develop economic and cultural relations with all countries.
The development of the Soviet economy was increasing the possibilities of extending economic relations between the USSR and other countries. Soviet industry and agriculture were developing at an unprecedented rate. Total industrial output, for example, had increased by over 10 per cent in 1958. Great importance was attached to education in the USSR and there were at present over 50 million students in all types of educational establishments. The Soviet economy would continue to expand under the Seven-Year Plan for the years 1959-1965. The total production of capital goods, for instance, would increase by 85-88 per cent and that of consumer goods by 62-65 per cent. There would be an average increase of 40 per cent in the real per capita income of the economically active population. A 35-hour working week for manual and nonmanual workers and a 30-hour working week for workers in arduous occupations would be introduced in 1964, following a previous reduction in working hours in 1960. During the period covered by the Plan, 2.3 million specialists would graduate from institutions of higher education.

The programme to be carried out under the Seven-Year Plan showed that the USSR focused its attention on peaceful construction and on the maintenance of peace. It proposed that the Western Powers should compete with it, not in the production of armaments, but in efforts to improve the living standards of peoples, in the construction of housing and schools, and in the advancement of science and culture.

With its highly-developed industry, the USSR could supply the less developed countries with various types of equipment in exchange for their traditional exports. It was at present giving a number of those countries economic and technical aid both on a bilateral basis and under the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. It was providing complete equipment for the construction of industrial enterprises and was assisting in agricultural development. For example,
it was helping India in constructing a large metallurgical plant, in oil prospecting and in building the Bombay Institute of Technology. It had concluded agreements on economic and technical co-operation with the United Arab Republic providing for assistance in the construction of industrial enterprises, in geological prospecting and other work aimed at promoting the country's economic development. It had signed an agreement with the Republic on 27 December 1958, under which it would participate in the construction of the Aswan Dam and would make a credit of 400 million roubles available for that purpose. It was providing similar economic and technical assistance to Ceylon and Burma.

Much Soviet assistance to the less developed countries took the form of the training of specialists from those countries in Soviet enterprises and scientific research institutes. Soviet specialists were also sent to the less developed countries to give technical assistance on the spot. The doors of Soviet educational establishments were open to the young people of other countries, including those of Africa.

In giving economic and technical assistance to the less developed countries, the Soviet Union did not attach any conditions which might infringe their sovereignty, nor did it demand any privileges for itself. It was anxious to extend its economic and cultural ties with African countries; experience had shown that such ties were mutually beneficial. Its experience in public health, for example, might be particularly useful to them.

The USSR wished the Commission every success in solving the tasks before it.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that, as arranged, he had transmitted the text of his speech to the Secretariat for circulation. Meanwhile, he would like to convey vivae voce the good wishes of his Government and people and their
gratitude to His Imperial Majesty and the Ethiopian Government for welcoming the Commission to Addis Ababa. He assured the Commission that his Government would do everything in its power to assist the Commission in its task of bringing about social development at an accelerated rate and in greater freedom.

The CHAIRMAN, declaring the general debate closed, said that the texts of the other speeches not made would also be circulated in due course.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.
SIXTH MEETING

Held on Thursday, 1 January 1959 at 10.30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE (E/CN.14/3, E/CN.14/4)

The CHAIRMAN read out the text of paragraph 15 of Economic and Social Council resolution 671 (XXV), which provided that the Commission should adopt its own rules of procedure. He drew attention to the note of the Executive Secretary (E/CN.14/3), annex A of which contained draft rules of procedure and annex B a comparative review of the rules of procedure of the other regional economic commissions. It had proved necessary to amend those rules of procedure in the light of experience, and now that the Commission was about to adopt its own rules of procedure, delegations might have amendments to submit to the Secretariat draft.

Mr. NOGUEIRA (Portugal) congratulated the Executive Secretary on the extremely clear document he had prepared for the Commission's use. So far as its substance was concerned, the Secretariat draft was acceptable to the Portuguese delegation. It felt, however, that some amendments were necessary, mainly in order to improve the drafting; his delegation's amendments were set out in document E/CN.14/4. It was ready to submit its amendments during the discussion of the draft rule by rule.

The CHAIRMAN read out the Portuguese delegation's amendment to rule 5, which was to insert the words "at least 35 days before the commencement of the session" after the words "Chairman of the Commission and". He pointed out that the Economic and Social Council had recently requested that all the necessary documents should reach Governments at least six weeks before the opening of the session for which they had been prepared. The Portuguese amendment, which was based on that rule, therefore seemed sound.

Chief OKOTIE-EBOH (Federation of Nigeria) said that his delegation supported the Portuguese amendment which took due account of the difficulty of communications in Africa.
Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) said that perhaps it was not necessary that a time-limit should be fixed for the submission of documents. It might perhaps be enough to stipulate that documents should reach the Governments concerned in good time. At all events, the Liberian delegation would prefer to see the written text of the Portuguese amendments before expressing an opinion on the matter.

Mr. QUAIDOO (Ghana) pointed out that the discussion should have begun with rule 1 and not rule 5. Moreover, his delegation would like to study the written text of the Portuguese amendments before expressing an opinion.

Mr. NOGUEIRA (Portugal) said the representative of Ghana had made a reasonable request.

Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom) said that if the Portuguese amendments were the only amendments, the simplest course would be to adjourn the meeting and resume the discussion when delegations had received the text of those amendments. If, however, other delegations were to submit amendments, it might be useful to set up a committee to study them all.

Mr. MANASSE LEMMA (Ethiopia) associated himself with that statement.

Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (France) announced that his delegation intended to propose that some of the draft rules should be replaced by provisions from the rules of procedure of other regional economic commissions. As it was not going to propose novel rules, his delegation had not thought it necessary to submit its proposals in writing.

Mr. BEN KIRANE (Morocco) said that his delegation would submit an amendment to rule 13 of the draft rules of procedure.

Mr. BEHEIRY (Sudan) thought that in view of the statements of the representatives of France and Morocco, it would be advisable to set up a committee to study the amendments.
Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom) proposed that the meeting should be adjourned in order that delegations wishing to submit amendments in writing should have time to do so. If such amendments were purely formal, there would be no difficulty about taking a decision on them immediately. If, however, they were amendments of substance, it might be desirable to set up a committee to study them.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.
SEVENTH MEETING

Held on Thursday, 1 January 1959, at 5.30 p.m.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (E/CN.14/L.14)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to consider the question of the Commission's relations with other inter-governmental organizations and drew attention to the joint draft resolution on the subject submitted by the delegations of Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Republic and United Kingdom (E/CN.14/L.14).

Mr. BEHEIRY (Sudan), introducing the draft resolution, pointed out that it made provision for relations with three inter-governmental organizations already at work on the African continent and left the door open for the establishment of relations with other appropriate bodies.

Mr. MANASSE LEMMA (Ethiopia) said that the provisions of the draft resolution, of which Ethiopia was a co-sponsor, were in no way restrictive and were the product of careful negotiations. He urged its unanimous adoption by the Commission.

Chief OKOTIE-EBOH (Federation of Nigeria) expressed whole-hearted support for the proposal; it would enable the Commission to enter into relations at once with three organizations which were already doing useful work. He was not in favour of establishing relations with any more bodies for fear of unnecessary complications and duplication.

He proposed adding the words "and associate members" before the words "of the Commission" in the last line of the draft.

Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom), speaking as draftsman of the last operative paragraph of the draft resolution, said that the omission of any reference to the associate members of the Commission was an unfortunate oversight. His delegation gladly accepted the Nigerian amendment.

Though still not entirely satisfactory, the draft text represented a hard-won compromise and he hoped it could be unanimously adopted.
Mr. KAREFA-SMART (Gambia and Sierra Leone) supported the amendment. While naturally not claiming the right to vote, the associate members of the Commission were most anxious to be consulted on the establishment of relations with bodies whose activities affected their countries quite as much as they affected those of Member States.

Mr. BEN KIRANE (Morocco) regretted that his delegation could not accept the amendment as it stood. Morocco had from the outset looked forward to the time when the associate members, having achieved their independence, would take their place as members of the Commission with full voting rights. However, the amendment in its existing form would give associate members not merely the right to vote but, in view of the provision regarding unanimity, an actual right of veto, which was contrary to the draft rules of procedure.

Mr. SLIM (Tunisia) agreed with the Moroccan representative. The amendment ran counter to paragraph 8 of the Commission's terms of reference.

Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom) withdrew his original amendment and proposed the following amended version of the end of the final operative paragraph of the draft resolution:

"A decision on such relationships could be reached by correspondence between the Executive Secretary and the members and associate members of the Commission, provided that the members of the Commission agreed unanimously."

Mr. BEHEIRY (Sudan) supported the new United Kingdom amendment, which made a gesture towards the associate members while making it clear that the decision lay with the members of the Commission.

Mr. QASEM (Libya) and Mr. QUAIDOO (Ghana) also supported the new amendment.
Miss BROOKS (Liberia) accepted the new amendment and asked that Liberia should be included in the list of co-sponsors, in token of its wholehearted support of the amended text.

It was so decided.

Mr. BEN KIRANE (Morocco) regretted that his delegation still found the text of the last paragraph constitutionally unsatisfactory, though he assured the associate members that no slight whatever was intended to them. His objection was based on the fact that in international law non-independent territories had not the same rights as independent States.

He would prefer a text which specified that associate members were entitled to be consulted but that the decision lay with the members of the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN said that such was his interpretation of the revised text.

Mr. TOURE (Guinea) agreed with the Moroccan representative. His delegation ardently desired the early achievement of independence by the associate members and their admission to full membership of the Commission. But the fact remained that there was an important difference between the members and associate members, the former alone being in a position to exercise their sovereign rights.

The new United Kingdom amendment had the merit of being in accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure. Guinea would, however, prefer the clearer formula advocated by Morocco.

Chief OKOTIE-EBOH (Federation of Nigeria) expressing his gratitude to those delegations which supported the new amendment, said that he would be quite unable to countenance any solution which might imply that the associate members were admitted to the meetings of the Commission merely on sufferance.

Mr. BEN KIRANE (Morocco) assured the Nigerian representative that no such slight was implied. The point at issue was a purely constitutional one.
The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the United Kingdom amendment to the last operative paragraph of the draft resolution.

The amendment was adopted by 10 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the joint draft resolution on relations with other inter-governmental organizations (E/CN.14/L.14), as amended.

At the request of the representative of Morocco, a vote was taken by roll-call. Belgium, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom.

Against: none.

Abstaining: Belgium, France, Italy.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (France), explaining his delegation's abstention from the voting, said that as far as the amendment was concerned the French delegation had abstained for the reasons which had been given in its statement during the general debate, namely that the institutions of the French Community would not be established until April 1959.

With regard to the resolution as a whole, the French delegation had been empowered by those members of the Commission which were also members of the European Economic Community, namely Belgium and Italy, to explain their vote at the same time as its own.
The three delegations had abstained because, in the light of what had been stated during the debate and in the exchanges of views between members of the Commission, and also by virtue of earlier decisions taken by several United Nations bodies, the European Economic Community should have been specifically mentioned in the third preambular paragraph on the same footing as the other organizations referred to there. It was, in fact, even more in the interest of the Commission than of the Community to include it.

The three delegations had not voted against the resolution because, on the strength of the earlier part and of operative paragraph 3, the Executive Secretary could enter into relations with the European Economic Community as early as possible.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.
EIGHTH MEETING

Held on Friday, 2 January 1959, at 12.20 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE (E/CN.14/3, E/CN.14/3/Add.1, E/CN.14/L.4, E/CN.14/L.9) (resumed from the sixth meeting)

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the amendments proposed by the Portuguese and French delegations (E/CN.14/L.4 and L.9 respectively) to the draft rules of procedure appearing in annex A to the Executive Secretary's note (E/CN.14/3).

Mr. ABECASSIS (Portugal) said that after the exchange of views among heads of delegations which had preceded the meeting, the Portuguese delegation had decided to withdraw the amendments which it had proposed to rules 6 and 68.

It maintained its amendment to rule 5, but in the draft amendment the words "at least 35 days" should be replaced by the words "at least 42 days". While maintaining its amendment to rule 23, his delegation accepted the Secretariat's suggestion that the original text of the Executive Secretary's draft should be retained for that rule and that the Portuguese amendment should be included as a new rule to be inserted after rule 23. In the Portuguese delegation's text and in the text of rule 23 itself, the word "members" should be replaced by the words "members and associate members".

The Portuguese delegation also maintained its proposal that a new rule should be inserted after rule 49. The text of that new rule (E/CN.14/L.4) should, however, be amended: in the first line, the words "of any member" should be replaced by the words "of any member or associate member"; in the second line, the words "by any speaker", should be replaced by the words "by any other member or associate member"; in the sixth line, the words "members present" should be replaced by the words "representatives present"; and in the last line, the words "such as one for closure or adjournment" should be replaced by the words "such as those referred to in rule 48".

Furthermore, in the English text, the words "shall be given" should be replaced by the words "shall be handed over", the word "motion" by the word "proposal" and the words
formal notions" by the words "procedural notions".

The CHAIRMAN noted that there did not seem to be any objection to the amendments proposed by the Portuguese delegation, and he therefore considered that they could be regarded as adopted.

It was so decided.

Mr. SCHREIBER (Legal Counsel), at the Chairman's request, read the text of the rules as so amended.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the rules which had been read out.

Rules 5 and 23, as amended, and the two new rules to be inserted after rules 23 and 49 respectively, were adopted unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN invited the representative of France to introduce the French delegation's amendments (E/CN.14/L.9).

Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (France) said that since objections had been raised to some of the French delegation's amendments, the delegation had decided to withdraw its amendments to rules 8, 67, 68 and 69 of the draft rules of procedure.

With reference to the amendment replacing rule 10 of the draft by rule 10 of the rules of procedure of ECLA, he observed that in the second paragraph of the ECLA text the words "thirty days in advance, as provided in rule 3" should be replaced by the words "forty-two days in advance".

With reference to the amendment suggesting that rule 11 of the draft should be replaced by rules 11 and 12 of the rules of procedure of ECLA, which were the same as ECE rules 9 and 10, he explained that the amendment did not apply to the whole rule but only to the last
part of it. The words "Each member and associate member of the Commission shall be represented by an accredited representative" would therefore stand.

The French delegation proposed that the first part of rule 57 of the draft should be replaced by the corresponding provision of rule 36 of the rules of procedure of ECLA (ECE rule 33); the second part of rule 57 of the Secretariat's draft would stand.

Mr. BEHEIRY (Sudan), Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom), Mr. MANASSE LEMMA (Ethiopia), Mr. QASEM (Libya), Mr. SLIM (Tunisia) and Mr. TOURE (Guinea) supported the amendments proposed by the French delegation.

The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of objections to the French delegation's amendments to rules 10, 11 and 57 of the draft rules of procedure, those rules could consequently be regarded as adopted in their amended form.

It was so decided.

Mr. SCHREIBER (Legal Counsel) at the Chairman's request, read the text of rules 10, 11 and 57 as amended.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the rules that had just been read out.

Rules 10, 11 and 57 were adopted unanimously.
The CHAIRMAN expressed the view that, in the absence of any observation on the other rules in the Executive Secretary's draft, those rules could be regarded as acceptable to the members of the Commission.

Mr. SHIATI (United Arab Republic) suggested that it might be preferable to postpone the consideration of rules 29 and 30.

Mr. IBANEZ (Spain) supported the suggestion of the representative of the United Arab Republic.

Mr. QAISSEM (Libya) also supported the suggestion of the representative of the United Arab Republic. He would even suggest that the consideration of the whole of chapter VII of the draft rules of procedure should be postponed.

Chief OKOTIE-EBOH (Federation of Nigeria) pointed out that to postpone the consideration of those rules would cause the Commission some difficulty, because no decision would have been taken on the official languages to be used at its subsequent sessions.

Mr. SHIATI (United Arab Republic) said that the rules of procedure were being adopted more or less on a provisional basis. He emphasized that there were five Arabic-speaking countries among the Commission's members and that the use of Arabic would greatly facilitate the Commission's work and the training of Arabic-speaking personnel in the Secretariat.

Chief OKOTIE-EBOH (Federation of Nigeria) said that there was no reason why the use of Arabic as a working language should not be proposed at a later session of the Commission.
Mr. BEN KIRANE (Morocco) supported the statement of the representative of the United Arab Republic. Of the 200 million Africans, 65 million belonged to countries which were full members of the Commission and of those 65 million, 40 million were Arabic-speaking. The procedure suggested by the representative of the Federation of Nigeria seemed unwise because, if a proposal to amend the rules of procedure was made at the next session, it would have to be carried by a two-thirds majority.

His delegation appreciated the budgetary difficulties which the proposal to make Arabic a working language might involve, but it proposed that Arabic should not be regarded as a working language until after the next session.

Mr. SLIM (Tunisia) moved the adjournment of the debate in order to give chiefs of delegations time to consider the question.

Mr. IBANEZ (Spain) supported the Tunisian representative's notion.

Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom), opposing the motion, said that the matter should be discussed in plenary.

Chief OKOTIE-EBOH (Federation of Nigeria) agreed with the United Kingdom representative because he considered that the question was of interest to all members of the Commission.

Mr. SLIM (Tunisia), speaking on a point of order, requested that the notion for the adjournment of the debate should be put to the vote.

The notion of the representative of Tunisia was adopted by 7 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.
NINTH MEETING

Held on Friday, 2 January 1959, at 3.15 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS AND MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC AID TO THE INDEPENDENT STATES AND TO THE TERRITORIES AWAITING INDEPENDENCE IN AFRICA (E/CN.14/L.10 and Corr.1)

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Commission to the draft resolution submitted by the Ethiopian delegation (E/CN.14/L.10 and Corr.1).

Mr SLIM (Tunisia) said his delegation had been gratified by the increase in Africa's share of technical assistance during the past years. In the Second Committee of the General Assembly the Tunisian delegation had spoken in favour of making technical assistance in public administration available to a number of territories which were not yet Members of the United Nations. The position was the same with regard to all other forms of technical assistance and Tunisia therefore supported the Ethiopian proposal.

Mr WRIGHT (United Kingdom) said that the Ethiopian draft resolution raised a number of important issues which required careful consideration. As it had been circulated only a few minutes before, he proposed that the meeting should be suspended for half an hour to give delegations time for consultation.

Mr BEHEIRY (Sudan), Mr van ROS (Belgium) and Mr QASEM (Libya) supported that proposal.

The meeting was suspended at 3.35 p.m. and resumed at 4.10 p.m.

Mr LEWIS (Ghana), speaking on a point of order, expressed the view that the discussion of item 9 of the agenda at the present stage would prejudice the subsequent discussion of item 7. It was undesirable to discuss individual aspects of the Commission's work before its programme of work and priorities had been considered as a whole.

Mr BEHEIRY (Sudan) said that while he appreciated the motives underlying the Ethiopian delegation's proposal, he agreed with the delegation of Ghana that it should logically be discussed after the programme of work and priorities.
The CHAIRMAN proposed that the discussion of the Ethiopian draft resolution should be deferred for the time being and that the Commission should proceed to the discussion of item 7 of its agenda.

It was so agreed.

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES (E/CN.14/4 and Add. 1 and 2; E/CN.14/L.11-13, E/CN.14/L.17 and L18)

Mr. Mekei ABBAS (Executive Secretary) said that his memorandum on the programme of work and priorities (E/CN.14/4) deliberately covered a very wide field of activity — which the Commission could not attempt to carry out in the space of a few years — in order to indicate as many as possible of the types of activity which should be undertaken in compliance with the Commission’s terms of reference. It was also designed to enable the Commission to determine which were the more practical and urgent matters that could be dealt with in the first year or two. It was not, however, completely exhaustive and members should, therefore, draw attention to any matters they regarded as important which had been omitted.

His memorandum on the provision of training (E/CN.14/4/Add.1) was self explanatory.

In his summary of a suggested work programme for 1959 (E/CN.14/4 Add.2) an attempt had been made to select the high priority projects in which members had shown an interest and which it was thought could be carried out with the resources available in 1959. In submitting the programme outlined in the summary, he hoped the Commission would bear in mind that the initial staff of the Secretariat was small, that recruitment was slow and that information, experience and judgement in the new field of work would take some time to acquire. It would be noted from the summary that the emphasis in the first year would be on concerted action, economic and social research, and training.
Members had made a number of suggestions regarding matters on which concerted action might be taken, if properly defined, those suggestions could provide appropriate subjects for investigation and report. One draft resolution sponsored by a number of West African States and territories had already been submitted and the Commission would be dealing with it in due course.

With regard to economic and social research, he felt that the scope of such research would be so wide and the requirements of States or groups of States would be so many that great care would be needed in deciding priorities. It was for that reason that the summary indicated a number of subjects for future study which he believed to be of great interest to Governments.

In view of the fact that the training facilities in Africa would need to be supplemented for many years to come by the efforts not only of ECA but of all organizations in a position to give assistance, he believed that any resources that could be spared for training statisticians and economists in institutions in Africa or for providing training facilities abroad for the more senior administrative and managerial staff would be well spent. It was proposed as a start to establish eight training posts, but he hoped that the Commission's training activities could be expanded as time went on and that it could make a reasonable contribution towards improving the situation.

The suggested work programme took account throughout of the social aspects of economic development. It would be noted that the fact-finding which he considered necessary as a basis for the Commission's work included the study and analysis of demographic and social factors. The long-range programme paid special attention to the problems resulting from rapid urbanization and to the relationship between urbanization and industrialization. Action in regard to housing, health and social services must not be confined to the inclusion in publication or general statements regarding the importance of such action, precise definitions and active advisory services to Governments were required.
In the programme for 1959 priority had been given to community development as being a field in which the Commission could develop a fully integrated economic and social action programme with the support of many African Governments and the close collaboration of the ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO. The United Nations had already made a survey of community development programmes in a number of African countries and territories in 1956 and was now giving technical assistance to five members of the Commission at their request.

The work of the Commission's secretariat would be closely co-ordinated with related work being carried on at United Nations Headquarters. In 1959, the Secretary-General was to convene a panel of experts on industrialization, whose recommendations would be of value to the Commission and the same would apply to the work of the reconstituted Commission on International Commodity Trade. The Commission's secretariat would also draw upon the resources of Headquarters for work on investment incentives, for surveys of international aid and for the ten-year economic study of Africa. Close working relations would be maintained with the interested specialized agencies and other competent bodies.

In regard to finance and staff, adequate funds had been allocated for 1959 and there was reason to expect that increased funds would be forthcoming as the Commission's needs grew. The support that would be received from Headquarters would enable the Commission to make an early start in some fields and the recruitment of staff would be actively pursued. Although he was fully aware of the acute lack of trained staff of the type required for the Commission's work, he hoped that Governments would respond generously to any approach he might make to them in the matter.

Time would be needed to build up the Commission's resources to cope with all the problems before it, but having heard the assurances of support expressed by all members of the Commission in the general debate, he had no doubts as to ultimate success.
Mr. LEWIS (Ghana) said his delegation was in general agreement with the memoranda presented by the Secretariat, and attached special importance to concerted action to improve economic relations, technical assistance and financing, training and research and advisory services.

It was one of the Commission's main tasks to take the initiative in promoting concerted action, and his delegation had been happy to join with other West African delegations in sponsoring the draft resolution contained in document E/CN.14/L.11.

With reference to technical assistance, he said that the African countries benefited from both technical and multilateral assistance, though it was clear from the documentation that Africa was not receiving its fair share either of technical assistance or of World Bank loans. The Commission should be used as a medium for channelling more assistance into Africa. Most United Nations agencies operated under autonomous charters and the Commission could have no direct say in the establishment of their programmes. When it had a good case, however, it could bring its influence to bear indirectly through the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. For that purpose, it must have the necessary facts and figures. As a means of bringing United Nations aid into closer relation to needs, the Executive Secretary should prepare each year a review of the aid given to African countries by the various United Nations bodies.

On the subject of training, he was not sure what the Secretariat intended. There were two possibilities of Secretariat action: either it could provide training directly, or else it could endeavour to ensure that enough training facilities were provided in other ways. He hoped the Secretariat would not be too ambitious in the matter of providing training because that was a responsibility which could more appropriately be undertaken by Governments and national bodies. Furthermore, excessive attention to training might affect the quality of the Secretariat's research work. The Commission
could, however, do something to ensure that adequate training facilities were provided elsewhere, although he would not give that matter the highest priority. The difficulty was, in fact, not the provision of training but the shortage of people to take advantage of the opportunities offered. The most useful approach might be to establish a training institute at a university in Africa or elsewhere.

So far as concerned research, the Executive Secretary had requested that the Commission should not call for a detailed programme before the next session. A rigid programme was not possible until the staffing situation became clearer. Furthermore, the Secretariat's work programme should be drawn up, not by the Commission in plenary session, but by a committee of the Commission's members which would meet for one or two days before each session to review what the Secretariat had been doing and draw up a programme for the following year. That programme would then be directed by the full Commission. The inevitable consequence of any attempt to draw up a work programme in plenary would be to overburden the Secretariat, since delegations would vie with each other in proposing subjects.

The reports to be prepared by the Secretariat should be analytical rather than purely informative, since the experts for whom they were intended already had access to adequate sources of information. He would not give the highest priority to the preparation of reports on investment funds, for it was clearly not lack of literature that was holding up investment. So far as concerned the study of the possibilities of industrialization, he thought the best plan would be for two or three experts to be attached to the staff of the Commission for the purpose of visiting countries in turn and spending from three to six months in each. The reports of such experts would have an advantage over the reports of national experts in that they could be more comparative.
That advantage should be exploited to the full, for in that way the Secretariat could make a unique contribution to the study of the problems involved.

In the establishment of the Secretariat's work programme, the Commission should give the Executive Secretary a free hand. His delegation was confident that the work done by the Secretariat would be most valuable.

Mr. MANASSE LENNA (Ethiopia) said that the main task of those concerned with the development of Africa should be to accelerate progress while avoiding the social hardships experienced, at a corresponding stage of evolution, by the economically advanced countries. In promoting economic development and social welfare, Governments should rely primarily on their own efforts and on the optimum use of their own resources; but the needs of development were immense and required capital and technical skill which the African countries did not as yet possess. He was therefore happy to recognize in the Commission a medium through which the widest technical co-operation could be achieved within the framework of the United Nations.

Since the war, his country had made great strides in education and public health. The aim of Ethiopia's financial policy had been to mobilize domestic saving with a view to securing the maximum resources for economic development. The most urgent need was to provide the economic infrastructure, and accordingly heavy investments had been made in transport, the development of electric power and the improvement of agriculture by irrigation. In addition, as part of a long-term plan, the possibilities of industrialization were being explored.

In all the activities which he had described Ethiopia had received assistance from agencies like WHO, FAO, the Bank, the Fund and TAB. The fact was that the underdeveloped countries could not, by their unaided efforts, narrow the gap between their
level of living and that of the advanced countries. There was every indication that the gap was in fact widening, and his Government would like to draw attention to the seriousness of that situation. Africa needed aid from the advanced countries, but the help should not be indiscriminate, for practices which were appropriate in the advanced countries were not necessarily so elsewhere.

The problem of developing the under-developed countries was not simple, nor could it be solved in a short time. Economic progress was inhibited and retarded by a number of factors, both economic and non-economic. In that connexion, he thought the Commission might help to foster a new mentality and encourage new techniques. He hoped the Commission would also help to promote closer cooperation between Governments and the specialized agencies.

So far as concerned the preparation of the complete programme, his Government was of the opinion that the best course would be for the Commission to act in the spirit and framework of its terms of reference, bearing in mind the experience of ECLA and ECAFE, and concentrating on the most urgent social and economic problems.

In the light of its experience, his Government thought the Commission could make a material contribution to the welfare of the region by undertaking economic and social research, the results of which might be embodied in periodic surveys, and by promoting the exchange of information on matters of common interest. His delegation had accordingly submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.12) requesting the Executive Secretary to take the necessary action. The Governments of member States should submit studies of their national economies to facilitate the preparation of the surveys.
His delegation had also submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.13) on capital formation. It was one of the Commission's most important tasks to study ways and means of obtaining the indispensable domestic and foreign capital for carrying out the necessary improvements in agriculture and transport, for example.

One of the greatest difficulties facing the region was the shortage of skilled and managerial personnel. His delegation hoped therefore that a draft resolution would be introduced recommending suitable action by the Commission and its members to remedy that deficiency.

Other matters of great importance were the provision of advisory services by or through the Commission, economic programming and the planning of river basin projects.

His delegation intended to submit a draft resolution on pest control and the eradication of livestock diseases.

Some of the work he had described could be undertaken by the Secretariat with the assistance of Governments. The other activities, requiring the co-ordination of government policies, could best be performed by working groups within the Commission.

It was extremely important that the Commission should establish relations and co-ordinate its work with the specialized agencies.

He had made no reference to many important problems which deserved the Commission's attention, but not everything could be included in the programme for 1959. An order of priority had to be established and the most urgent problems selected for immediate treatment.

His Government expressed its readiness to co-operate closely with other Governments in promoting the economic and social progress of the peoples of Africa.
Chief OKOTIE-EBOH (Federation of Nigeria) said that with all due respect to theorists, he thought the most important need was to produce tangible results within a reasonable time. Despite the wisdom of the exhortation to make haste slowly, Africa could not afford to lag behind in a rapidly changing world. If there were to be more reports, they should not be general but specific, prepared by experts who had studied the situation on the spot. Statistics might have their value, but there was a temptation to use them for the purpose of supporting particular theories rather than as a guide to practical action.

The suggestions for the inclusion of topics in the Commission's work programme should be screened so that those most likely to yield beneficial results promptly could be identified.

Mr. TERVER (Food and Agriculture Organization) said that he had not participated in the general debate, not from any lack of interest, but because he thought he could contribute more to the discussion on the programme of work.

The document summarizing the current programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies relating to Africa (E/CN.14/5) gave particulars of FAO's activities in Africa; he referred to paragraphs 89 at seq. of the document and to the passages describing FAO's participation in social, economic and statistical studies. In addition to publications dealing specifically with Africa, some of FAO's world-wide studies contained chapters dealing with the continent or parts of the continent or with peculiarly African problems or commodities.
Inasmuch as all improvement of conditions in Africa had to depend on more precise knowledge, statistical data were indispensable; he hoped that the whole of Africa would be covered in the world-wide census of agriculture planned for 1960 (cf. E/CN.14/5, paragraph 118).

He was happy to note that the social aspects of economic development were specifically mentioned in the Commission's terms of reference, for FAO had a particular interest and had done much work in social questions. Referring to the question of nutrition, which was fundamental to the welfare of the African population, he said much had been done by FAO to make Governments conscious of the importance of correct and balanced nutrition. Three centres had been established in Africa to that end, in cooperation with the Commission for Technical Assistance of Africa South of the Sahara (CCTA) and WHO. Studies and work had been carried out on all aspects of nutrition in collaboration with the organizations mentioned and with UNICEF, while technical assistance experts had been sent, on request, to a large number of African countries and territories.

With regard to future plans for work with Africa, he said that in 1958 the Council of FAO had approved the establishment of a main regional office at Accra and of an office in Addis Ababa for the purpose of liaison with the Commission. While some of FAO's activities were of only indirect interest to the Commission, a large part of the Organization's programme dealing with economic and social development was of direct concern, and FAO wished to establish the closest relations with the Commission.

Africa was predominantly agrarian, and most of the African countries depended on agricultural exports for revenue and for foreign exchange. Hence, while the gradual development of industry was essential, agriculture must, for the time being, remain the corner-stone of the African economy, and the Commission's principal preoccupation.
FAO intended to convene in 1960 the first regional conference for Africa on the same lines as those held regularly in other under-developed parts of the world. Such conferences were of great value and gave Governments an opportunity of influencing the programme of work drawn up for the biennial conference of FAO at Rome.

FAO's work in Africa would, for the time being, concentrate on social aspects and nutrition; the over-riding object should be to raise the standard of living of the population, and for that purpose more food should be produced for the home market. Admittedly, the increased production of exportable foodstuffs was in many cases a pre-requisite of higher nutritional standards at home; but, since commercial exports of foodstuffs were already highly organized in Africa, FAO could probably do more good by concentrating on domestic production of food for domestic consumption.

Agricultural statistics, the lack of which had seriously hampered social and economic development, should be improved and extended. Little was known, for example, about the yearly fluctuations in cereal production in the more arid regions. FAO's statistical work in Africa would for the next year be focussed mainly on the preparation of the 1960 World Agricultural Census, but it had already informally agreed with the ECA Secretariat to assist in the formulation of an integrated programme for the development of statistics, if the Commission so desired.

The FAO programme for 1959 would comprise various other economic and social activities which were at present under study; among the projects were an agricultural extension centre, for West Africa, probably in Nigeria, and a farm co-operative training centre, to be set up in Kenya in collaboration with the ILO and CCTA.

Studies of specific interest to FAO, in which it might usefully co-operate with the Commission, included the transition from subsistence to commercial farming and how to encourage it; price policies in respect of farm products, especially food products; a general survey of farm policies and development programmes; the use made of funds
available for agricultural investment (possibly under the general survey of investments to be carried out in co-operation with the Commission); intra-African trade in such products as meat and maize; and the structure and trends of domestic demand for food products.

FAO's work on the improvement of agricultural marketing concerned all under-developed countries, but, owing to shortage of staff, it had not yet been able to undertake a detailed study of the problem in Africa. It was hoped, however, in time to appoint an expert on marketing problems to Africa.

So far as forestry was concerned, FAO intended to carry out in Africa the same type of studies on timber production and consumption, and on the timber trade, as it had carried out in Europe, the Far East and in Latin America in co-operation with ECE, ECAFE and ECLA respectively.

Its work in regard to fisheries, which were particularly important in Africa where malnutrition due to a shortage of animal protein was widespread, would be concentrated on the study of marketing and consumption, and on the storage, transportation and processing of fish products.

Co-operation between the United Nations and the specialized agencies in community development was already well-established. Considerable experience in self-help programmes had already been accumulated in many parts of Africa. The recommendations of the Belshaw Mission, which had recently undertaken a survey of the progress and future possibilities of community development in Africa and the chief of which had been appointed by FAO, would almost certainly provide the basis on which the future plans of the United Nations and ECA would be prepared. FAO would follow the matter closely and would be glad to give any help in its power.
The ideas he had put forward did not, of course, constitute a specific programme of action for 1959, but were merely suggestions on which FAO would be glad to have the Commission's views in order to establish its programmes and priorities.

In conclusion, he wished to assure the Commission of FAO's fullest co-operation in its work.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.
TENTH MEETING
Held on Saturday 3 January 1959, at 10.45 a.m.

ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE (E/CN.14/3, E/CN.14/L.4, E/CN.14/L.15/Rev.1) (concluded)

Mr. BEHEIRY (Sudan) said that, after due reflection, his delegation and various others felt that a place should be found in the work of the Commission for the languages of Africa as well as for English and French, but that on principle no one language should be given preference over the others. He understood that the Executive Secretary intended to prepare a document on the subject which he hoped would cater for what they had in mind.

That being so, the Sudanese delegation proposed that the Commission's working languages remain English and French, as in the draft.

Miss BROOKS (Liberia), Mr. SLIM (Tunisia), Mr. MANASSE LEMMA (Ethiopia), and Mr. QUAIIDO (Ghana) supported the Sudan representative's proposal.

Mr. IBANEZ (Spain) withdrew his own delegation's amendment on the same subject (E/CN.14/L.15/Rev.1) in the light of exchanges of views with other delegations. However, he explicitly reserved his Government's right to bring up again the question of the official and working languages of the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN noted that in view of the change proposed by the Sudan representative, rule 29 of the rules of procedure would read as follows:

"English and French shall be the working languages of the Commission."

It was so decided.

In response to an observation by Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom), the CHAIRMAN put the amended rules of procedure as a whole to the vote.

The rules of procedure as a whole as amended, were adopted by 13 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.
Mr. GRAVES (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, stated his conviction that it was urgently necessary to raise the living standards of the African peoples, at present among the lowest in the world. Much had already been done but the task was an immense one; the Bank hoped to make an ever-growing contribution to its fulfilment. Loans from the Bank to Africa had increased, especially since 1956, both in absolute figures and in relation to the total funds at its command. The first African country to borrow from the Bank had been Ethiopia. The loans granted by the Bank were mainly for the development of electric power production and distribution, and to an even greater extent, for the development of transport.

The Bank did not finance its loans from government sources only. Roughly half the funds disbursed in Africa were raised in the private market by the sale of bonds, especially to financial institutions in Europe and North America.

The Commission was no doubt aware of the rules governing the Bank's lending activities under its Charter. Generally speaking, the Bank lent to meet external charges, namely, the cost of imported goods and services. It did not make loans for educational, health or housing projects, nor did it lend more than it believed a borrower could repay. In view of those limitations, the Bank thought that the international machinery of financing should be supplemented in order to make it possible, so far as was compatible with sound management, to finance certain useful development projects to which, as things stood, the Bank was not in a position to contribute.

In connexion with its loans, the Bank often found it necessary to supply experts to study the projects. It also ran training programmes.
The Bank and the Commission could not fail to have many interests in common and the Bank would welcome opportunities of actively collaborating with the Commission.

By way of conclusion, he read out a message from the President of the Bank stressing the immense potentialities of Africa and the part to be played by the Commission and the peoples of Africa in developing the continent's untapped resources.

Mr. COSTANDO (International Monetary Fund) pointed out that the aims of the Commission coincided on many points with those of the Fund, one of whose tasks was to facilitate the balanced expansion of international trade. That it did by promoting international consultations on monetary problems, the conclusion of multilateral payments arrangements and the removal of exchange restrictions.

As was known, the Fund afforded its members, in proportion to their quotas, short-term financial assistance to enable them to adjust any temporary imbalance in their payments situation. Quite recently the Fund authorities had recommended that its members increase their quotas by 50 percent in most cases, but even more in respect of some countries whose trade and economy were expanding or, as in the case with some countries of Africa, whose needs were particularly great. Were its recommendations followed, the Fund's resources would be increased by about $5,000 million, a quarter of which would be in gold. It could then intervene on a larger scale and thus make a greater contribution to the establishment of international monetary and financial stability.

The recent decision of ten countries of Western Europe to make funds held by non-residents convertible was to be hailed as a step towards a truly unilateral payments system.

In the last few years, the African membership of the Fund had risen from three to eight countries. In addition, various territories had benefited from the support
given by the Fund to metropolitan currencies. In any case, every move by the Fund to aid a country in difficulty benefited the entire international community.

The Fund also served as a centre for financial and monetary intelligence. It sent its members confidential reports and published various periodical studies and statistics of which an increasingly large part was, and would be, devoted to African countries.

In the matter of vocational training, the Fund offered officials of Member Governments the possibility of a year's advanced training, including a course on general economic analysis and a special course on the presentation of balance of payments accounts. It could also furnish short-term technical assistance to Member States to help them in framing their policies and in drawing up their international payments programmes.

The Commission could rest assured that the Fund would gladly co-operate with it and help to further its activities.

Mr. ROMITA (Italy) said his delegation believed that the Commission should first recognize the importance of embarking on a complete survey of potential resources of the African continent, and should then gather the information needed for the establishment of priorities. It was difficult to see how a country's industrial development could be planned without a detailed market study.

Furthermore, co-ordination was necessary to ensure that the African countries did not all manufacture the same product. It was desirable, from the point of view both of consumption and of exports, that their respective manufactures should complement one another.

Italy was prepared to co-operate in that important goal, the development of the African continent, by providing the services of its specialists and its workers.
Mr. ADDAWE (Trust Territory of Somaliland under Italian administration) recalled that his territory had already attained autonomy and would soon attain independence. It was conscious of the duties and problems which independence entailed. It would continue to benefit in all spheres from the assistance of Italy, from which it had received much help in the past. That would solve many problems; as for the others, it was reassuring that in future assistance would be available from the Commission, which, with the help of all the organizations already set up in Africa, would help all the African countries to study their difficulties objectively and to avoid overlapping and the dissipation of energies.

It would seem that, in principle, priority should be given to a general survey of Africa's possibilities in respect of capital, labour and the training of personnel. Thereafter, an integrated development programme could be launched, covering such spheres as training, industrialization, the transition to commercial production and the economic and social sub-structure.

His Government would give priority, apart from the six-year plan, to the establishment of a port at Kisimayo ($3 to 7 million), the harnessing of the Juba river (for electricity and irrigation), and the conversion of 150 km of track to all-weather roads.

Mr. TOWE (Guinea), referring to the problems with which ECA would be concerned, warned against the errors committed by other bodies, which had not been realistic and had neglected factors of paramount importance.

As all knew, the African economy was an under-developed colonial or semi-colonial economy, which had been badly directed because it had been developed in dependence upon other dominant economies and because its managerial personnel was largely non-African.

It must also be realized that Africa's economic development was inconceivable without the emancipation of the entire continent. ECA in its work must combat the
economic fragmentation which had resulted from the haphazard process of colonization and grouped African countries with similar economies in different economic zones isolated from one another.

It was true that capital was not being accumulated in Africa, because foreign investments did not seek Africa's interests but the interests of the more developed countries, which grew richer as the African countries became poorer. As no one would deny today, that state of affairs could not be allowed to continue; it was generally realized that an African economy had to be constituted. That economy would not conflict with the other economies of the world but would supplement them and would inevitably enlarge the world market as the continent's resources were exploited and the needs of the African peoples developed.

That economy could be achieved only with the participation of Africans. In that connexion, he wished once more to emphasize that if ECA was to be a living organism it could not ignore the paramount problem, which was political in nature. It must take account of various existing factors, the main factor being the awakening of national sentiment; consequently, all problems had to be considered in their relationship to the real unity of the African continent.

He analyzed various factors in the continent's economic development, such as the return on investments. In that connexion he drew attention to Africa's mining and agricultural resources and to the constantly growing needs of Africa's inhabitants. He particularly emphasized the disadvantages of short-term investments. In view of the mineral and forest resources of the continent and, in particular, of Guinea, it was obvious that with the necessary capital heavy industry could be greatly expanded. For example, Guinea, with its enormous bauxite deposits, was potentially a large producer of aluminium.
It was important to decolonize trade, i.e. to put an end to integration with the metropolitan territory, to eliminate middlemen and to abolish imports of useless or even harmful products, as for example imports of alcohol.

He stressed the need for giving up old and obsolete ideas and for placing confidence in Africa, with its wealth of resources, and in the Africans, who were prepared to produce the skilled personnel needed for the development of their country. As an example of the new attitude that must prevail, he mentioned the report of the mission to study the development of Guinea. The study had been fruitful because it took account of the facts of the African situation and of Guinea's present and future interests.

He also stressed the link between industrial and agricultural development and the need for balancing the two and providing a solution for the problems raised by population movements and the reconversion of industry. The training of technicians must be related to the pressing needs of a constantly developing economy. The important problem of taxation must also be studied, and the present systems reformed and simplified. In conclusion, he repeated that the best safeguard which could be offered those who were prepared to invest capital in Africa was the economic and social equilibrium of a United Africa standing together with other nations, an Africa aware of its wealth and resources and prepared to develop them for the common good.

Mr. PAKOTEBE (International Federation of Christian Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the most urgent of the problems arising in Africa was the problem of undernourishment, which was a permanent scourge to the African peoples. Monoculture was too often the rule in the African countries. ECA must therefore seek to increase and diversify the production of food crops, and then to develop certain export crops as sources of revenue. It could do so by developing
agricultural co-operatives, studying the possibilities of adapting certain plants to African soils and also by arranging for studies of fertilizers. So far as stock-breeding was concerned, it could try to improve local breeds and introduce new ones. Another aspect of ECA's activity could be the campaign against epizootic diseases. Lastly, if well organized, fresh-water and sea fishing would make a substantial contribution.

At the industrial level, ECA would have to deal with the problems involved in the extraction and processing of raw materials. While extraction must certainly be developed to the full, it was also important to arrange for the raw materials to be processed on the spot. In that connexion, crafts could usefully supplement large-scale industry. Communication networks should also be developed, and purchasing agencies should be established wherever necessary. Those efforts obviously implied the participation of private capital, and he considered that for that purpose it would be useful to establish an international investment bank. ECA should also work out arrangements for technical assistance to be granted to different countries. It must not neglect the training of personnel, nor must it forget that the trade union organizations were in the forefront of economic and social development.

Miss BROOKS (International Federation of Women Lawyers), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that her organization was interested not only in the protection of women's political rights, but also in the economic and social advancement of women. Stressing the complexity of the programme for the development of Africa, she said that women would have a great part to play when that programme was carried out. Since the cultural development of women varied considerably from country to country, the ECA must provide for the education of African women,
particularly in political, economic, social and health matters. Thus the participation of women in carrying out the programme would be an essential factor in the development of Africa.

Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom) said that the Executive Secretary's excellent memorandum on the programme of work and priorities was to be regarded as a fundamental document which would for a long time to come serve as a guide for the Commission's work. He wished to thank the Ghana delegation for the outstanding statement made on its behalf by Professor Lewis whose sage counsels would certainly be extremely profitable to the Commission.

In his view, a statistical survey of Africa should have high priority and should be undertaken as early as possible. But the statistical services of the African countries already had a heavy work-load and, since Governments would continue to expect those services to concentrate on work essential to their economic and social development plans, that work might well take precedence over activities in connexion with the statistical survey of Africa in general. The Executive Secretary's suggestion that the methods and content of the statistical survey should be discussed at a conference of statisticians was, therefore, a very sound one. According to the annex to document E/CN.14/4, the statistical survey was to cover all fields. He thought it desirable, however, for the conference to divide the survey into at least two stages, the first of which would be concerned with the most pressing needs. What rendered such a conference all the more desirable was the possibility that some statistical services in Africa might not fully share the view expressed in paragraph 4 of the annex that the collection of data on subsistence areas would need to be based on general-purpose surveys. The suggestions made in paragraph 5 of the annex would also have to be thoroughly discussed.
He hoped that the Commission would work in close collaboration with the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara (CCTA). The best means of ensuring that co-operation was, he felt, that the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Secretary-General of CCTA should keep in constant and close touch with each other.

His delegation had joined with those of other members and associate members of the Commission in submitting a draft resolution, prepared on the initiative of the delegation of Ghana, which requested the Executive Secretary to study the possibilities of increasing economic co-operation in West Africa (E/CN.14/L.11). He hoped that the proposal would be well received by the other members of the Commission.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the texts of the draft resolutions already submitted or to be submitted concerning the Commission's programme of work would need to be harmonized. He proposed that a committee should be appointed for that purpose.

Mr. QUATRO (Ghana) proposed that the committee should consist of seven members.

Mr. SLIM (Tunisia), Mr. BEHEIRY (Sudan), Mr. TOURE (Guinea) and Mr. QASEM (Libya) supported the proposal of the representative of Ghana.

The CHAIRMAN put the proposal to the vote.

The proposal of the representative of Ghana was adopted by 14 votes to none.

Mr. PROFUMO (United Kingdom) proposed that the associate members should also be represented on the committee.

It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.
ELEVENTH MEETING

Held on Saturday, 3 January 1959, at 3.20 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO COMMITTEES

The CHAIRMAN announced the appointment of two committees. The first was to harmonize draft resolutions submitted to the Commission under item 7 of the agenda. It was composed of Belgium, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Tunisia and the United Kingdom. Mr. Slin (Tunisia) would be its Chairman. The second committee was to draft the report to the Economic and Social Council under item 10 of the agenda; it was composed of Guinea, Italy, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, United Arab Republic. Mr. Morris (Liberia) would be its chairman.

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES (E/CN.14/4 and Add. 1 and 2, E/CN.14/L.11, L.12, L.13, L.17, L.83, L.86) (resumed from the tenth meeting)

Mr. KANJAN (Kenya and Zanziber) said it was inevitable that delegations in their statements on that item should urge priority in matters of prime interest to their countries. It was important, however, to avoid duplication. For example, a housing and urbanization conference was shortly to take place in Kenya under the auspices of the Commission for Technical Cooperation in Africa (CCTA). The Commission might take advantage of the findings and the conclusions reached. Many representatives would be visiting Kenya for the conference and that led him to the subject of tourism to which the Kenya Government attached great importance. It was developing tourism, it was hoped with success, for Kenya offered many modern amenities and natural attractions to the tourist. His Government urged the economic importance for African territories of the tourist industry and suggested that the highest priority be given to it.

With regard to statistics, it was considered that only a permanent organization with an executive and clerical staff acquiring experience over the years could provide the framework for development. It was doubtful if the teams envisaged in the Secretariat's memorandum (E/CN.14/4, annex) could operate adequately, partly because of their lack of local knowledge. The value of ad hoc surveys by visiting experts, which should however
fit in with the overall statistical policy of the territory visited, was recognized. There should be close co-ordination between the visiting experts and the local organization, and the surveys should recommend development, in the field which they covered, by the established statistical organization. To demonstrate its desire to co-operate with the Commission, the Kenya Government would gladly furnish it with its statistical publications.

Kenya was an agricultural country and had gained much experience in development planning in recent years. Efforts must be concentrated on increasing agricultural production, and it was pertinent to mention the United Kingdom's grant of £5 million for the development of African agriculture. The Kenya Government had pursued for some years an active policy in the matter of land consolidation, land tenure, farm planning, market research, road construction and improvement etc., and the policy had borne fruit. It would be happy to place its knowledge at the disposal of the Commission.

The development of secondary industry would receive an impetus from improved farming. The Kenya Government had accepted its responsibility in many fields of development, with the assistance of grants, interest-free loans, and loans amounting to several million pounds from the United Kingdom Government, and had acquired extensive knowledge in technical fields. There was an urgent need for more capital. The provision of further capital for African territories formed the crux of the problem of development and he urged the Commission to give that aspect its earnest consideration.
Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) said that if concerted action were to be a success the right mental atmosphere, together with faith and mutual trust and faith in the economic feasibility of the plans must be present. Without those factors there could be no united action, and any project undertaken would be doomed to failure. It was necessary that the Secretariat should be recruited at the highest level, but members of the Commission when looking for good results from the Secretariat in 1959 must bear in mind that persons of that calibre were not always easily available. The Governments of members were under a great obligation to discharge their responsibility in the operation of a Commission project by the provision of adequate facilities and by the correct treatment of foreign personnel. An economic and social survey was of great importance and the varying patterns of Africa justified such research, but duplication should be avoided. FAO was operating in the field of agricultural statistics and the United Nations was preparing for a demographic census. Some of the data collected by those organizations could be of use to the Commission and would save expense.

With regard to the system of reporting statistical findings, he recommended that the Standard International Trade Classification code might be studied by the secretariat as a possible basis for an import-export reporting system. The experience of specialized agencies such as the ILO and WHO might also be taken into account when deciding on an overall system. Trade, investment and finance were other fields in which the Commission could operate usefully. The
promotion of intra-African trade might be studied and information gathered regarding the European, American and other markets, together with a close study of the repercussions of the European Common Market, investigations of discriminatory regulations affecting transport rates and other relevant factors.

Foreign investment capital needed reasonable security, and under-developed countries seeking financial aid must ensure that such security existed and that joint enterprises sponsored by foreign capital were not hampered by embarrassing national regulations. The Commission should also give consideration to research into financial and fiscal policy as soon as adequate staff and funds were available.

The principle on which co-operative societies were founded was not new to Africans, and the organization of co-operatives among local African communities in fields such as production, consumption, sanitation and banking could play a fundamental part in raising the standard of living of African peoples, teaching self-help and building habits of community life.

His delegation considered that it would be difficult to place any of the projects proposed low on the priority list and there must inevitably be some simultaneity. Research and investigating programmes should, however, come high on the list, together with in-service training.
Mr. van ROS (Belgium) noted that other delegations appeared to share Belgium's concern that the Commission's activities should be of an essentially practical and realistic kind. In emphasizing that pre-occupation, his remarks would be based partly on the Executive Secretary's memorandum concerning the suggested work programme for 1959 (E/CN.14/4/Add.2) and partly on Belgium's experience in the Belgian Congo and the Trust Territory of Ruanda Urundi, and would take into account the time required to recruit a qualified secretariat.

First priority should, he thought, be given to preparing an inventory of all economic and social documentation concerning member countries and the organization by the competent service of a system of classification, reproduction and distribution which could respond at short notice to a Government's request for information.

That documentation would also serve as a basis for the work of the research and planning division of the secretariat. In that work, priority should be accorded to the study of the basic demographic questions mentioned in paragraph 3 of the Summary. That would involve taking stock of work already performed and the submission to the Commission's next session of proposals for the adoption of uniform methods and for a general plan of operations to commence in 1960.

In the matter of education, which should enjoy continuing priority, the secretariat could usefully co-operate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in evolving a clear-cut method adapted to the intellectual development and economic needs of the African populations.

Looking somewhat further ahead, he said the problem of providing educational facilities would call for concrete projects with an indication of how they were to be financed.

That alone was an ambitious enough programme for 1959 but he would venture to ask
that the next session be also presented with a broad outline for the regional planning of economic research in agriculture, industry proper, small-scale and cottage industries, marketing and trade.

It would be rash for the secretariat to engage in thorough research in the fields indicated, but there was nothing to prevent the individual members of the Commission from undertaking such studies or continuing those already begun. Nor would his delegation rule out the possibility of undertaking a more thorough and co-ordinated study of technical projects in clearly defined sectors which satisfied the economic needs of part of the African continent.

Since the execution of all the projects selected would depend on the funds available, particular importance attached to paragraph 7 (Finance) of the summary. The secretariat should, accordingly, request all members to indicate how internal savings could be mobilized and submit a consolidated report on the subject to the next session as well as a report on the results of its study of the opportunities for the investment of foreign capital and the conditions governing such investment, a matter which should also receive priority.

While regarding concerted action as one of the chief weapons of the Commission, his delegation agreed with the Executive Secretary that the initiative in that respect must come from the members themselves (summary, paragraph 2). He hoped, therefore, that by the next session the secretariat would have received proposals from Governments which could serve as a basis for concrete plans for concerted action.

Belgium's experience and achievements in the Congo and Ruanda Urundi might be of some assistance to the Commission in its work. In 1948, despite the reconstruction problems facing it at home, the Belgian Government had drawn up a ten-year plan of economic and social development for the Belgian Congo, thanks to which the national product of the Congo had been doubled and the income of its population increased.
250 percent. A similar plan had been launched for Ruanda Urundi in 1952. Both should provide a useful contribution to the ten-year economic study of developments in Africa by the United Nations (summary, paragraph 4).

Experience in the preparation both of the original plan and of a second ten-year plan in which the main emphasis would be on productivity showed that preliminary studies of a documentary character and of demographic and financial questions, far from being a waste of time, were absolutely essential to ensure maximum efficiency and economy.

Agreeing with His Imperial Majesty that lack of education was one of the main reasons for Africa's retarded economic development, the Belgian Government had applied a larger proportion of the total annual expenditure under the ten-year plan for the Congo to the provision of increased facilities for education at all levels, primary, secondary, technical and university. The introduction of primary education for nearly two million children had swelled the numbers entering secondary schools, an increasing proportion of whom were going on to the two universities of the Congo, which comprised all the faculties found in European universities.

Economic development in agriculture and industry was backed up by the research work of the Institut national d'études agronomiques and the Institut de recherches scientifiques en Afrique centrale, both situated in the Congo with a staff of more than 500 highly-qualified African and European research workers and specialists. And their efforts were supplemented by the scientific work of Congolese and Belgian universities and of private research centres.

But Belgium and the Congo did not keep the benefits of such work to themselves. The doors of their public institutions were open to foreign students. Moreover, the Government had actively participated in all international ventures in meteorology, cartography, geology and telecommunications which were of interest to Africa and was
prepared to redouble such collaboration, more particularly within the framework of the Commission.

Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (France) said that, as he had already suggested, the Commission should draw heavily on the experience of the three other regional commissions. They had, for example, a whole body of precedents illustrating the part to be played by regional commissions in evaluating large-scale projects. Their experience showed, too, that there was a whole range of modes of procedure, expert committees, surveys by means of questionnaires, technical discussions, seminars and periods of study in other countries, from which the Commission could choose those most suited to its immediate purpose.

The guiding principle in evolving the Commission's programme should be to decide on what was obviously necessary, leaving it to the Secretariat, aided by various committees and like bodies, to prepare the basis for naturally considered decisions at the Commission's next session. Even if confined to what was obviously necessary, the list of activities would undoubtedly be long and perhaps beyond the means at the Secretariat's command in 1959.

While large-scale schemes involving concerted action, which held pride of place in the Executive Secretary's summary, undoubtedly made the strongest appeal to the imagination, they entailed a heavy drain on resources over a long period. They should be accorded high priority, but from the standpoint of importance rather than chronologically. Since in their case a hasty choice might well be an unwise one, he thought it preferable for a competent body to explore the various fields in which the members of the Commission might profitably undertake concerted action.

The proposal made by several delegations for concerted action in economic and commercial co-operation in West Africa deserved careful consideration, but there were other possibilities. It would, for instance, greatly enhance the Commission's prestige
if a vast scheme for the multi-purpose development of one of Africa's major rivers, on the lines of the Mekong river development project in Asia, were carried out under its auspices. Such a scheme for the Nile, for instance, might mark a new epoch in the development of that waterway. But the Nile was only one of Africa's great rivers; other possibilities might be considered, such as a general survey of Africa's water-power or energy resources. As far as concerted action was concerned, the Commission's task in 1959 should, in his opinion, be to compare the various fields lending themselves to concerted action, and to explore the possibility of the schemes being accepted by the States concerned and, what was more important, of their being carried out.

Among the other less spectacular, but necessary tasks, was that of providing statistical information as an essential preliminary for any rationally-planned economic activity. There the task would be to assemble data, improve them and extend them to Africa as a whole. Thoroughly convinced as he was of the importance of statistical work, he hoped he would be pardoned if he said that the secretariat programme as outlined in its memorandum E/CN.14/4) struck him as somewhat ambitious. The proposed statistical survey of Africa, for example, was less of a summary scheme than a general and ideal system towards which efforts should tend. It seemed advisable to refer detailed consideration of a statistical programme to the proposed meeting of statisticians (E/CN.14/4/Add.2, paragraph 5) for otherwise the Commission would have to lay down the general lines of the programme at its very first session.

On the question of economic research, he had little to add to the sound remarks of the representative of Ghana, except perhaps to remind the Commission how greatly the prestige of its sister Commission for Europe had been, and was being, enhanced by the publication of an annual Economic Survey of Europe, which, with its combination of original studies and data on the economic situation, was an indispensable aid to all concerned with the economic life of the continent and a valuable contribution to knowledge in general. He would
therefore welcome the completion of the analogous ten-year economic study of developments
in Jenother essential field of study was that of cartography, in which, as in many others, the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa (CCTA) had already some achievements to its credit which might prove of use to the
Commission.

In the matter of training of human material, too, he saw eye to eye with the representative of Ghana. International organizations should resist the tendency always to
create something new; rather, they should establish close relations with existing
universities and research and training centres. The task of the Commission in the
priority matter of the training of statisticians would be to mobilise all existing
training facilities, and co-ordinate and further their activities. The training scheme
should make provision for:

(i) permanent centres for combined theoretical and practical training in
statistics;

(ii) ad hoc training centres or seminars for the study of a particular branch of
applied statistics; the purpose of those centres, of more limited scope or
shorter life, being to bring about a rapid improvement in the compilation of
statistical data;

(iii) temporary demonstrations with special reference to field work;

(iv) exchanges of notes and experience by experts of the various countries of
Africa to enable them to work out definitions, methods, and the technique of
data collection and processing;

(v) training periods in surveys in course of execution; and, finally,

(vi) the distribution of handbooks.

Such a programme was not so ambitious or expensive as it seemed, for it was simply
a matter of promoting and co-ordinating independent moves, playing in fact that role of
catalyst which international organizations so often extolled but were strangely
unwilling to assume.

In that connexion, he could not fail to remind member States of their corresponding
duty to co-operate loyally with the Commission and not to begrudge it the services of their best brains.

He found the remarks in the Secretariat memorandum (E/CN.14/4) on economic aid, encouraging investment and community development sound in general and would not venture to pass judgment on the individual projects. As far as the tempting subject of trade, and especially trade in primary commodities was concerned, he said that while the Commission summary should rightly be concerned with the repercussions on the African economy of fluctuations in commodity prices, it should leave the general aspects of the problem to FAO, the Commission on International Commodity Trade, the ICCICA and the various conferences convened by the United Nations.

One concrete project in which the Commission was particularly qualified to inter-
the question of the part to be played nationally by equalization or stabilization funds in endeavouring to mitigate the more serious repercussions of fluctuations in primary commodity prices.

He also felt that economic development could not take place without a parallel development of legal institutions and specifically of trade legislation. The Commission should be concerned to develop, improve and harmonize the various national laws on companies, taxation, industry, etc., following the example of Ethiopia, which had understood that economic advancement must go hand in hand with a modernization of the legal system, a task as arduous as it was necessary.

Fearing that he had fallen into the familiar trap of presenting the Secretariat with a programme too ambitious for its resources, he would reserve all detailed comments for a later stage in the debate.

Mr. WALLACE (Somaliland Protectorate) said that the Somaliland Protectorate was without doubt one of the poorest territories in Africa, and its economy one of the most precarious. Its sole wealth was its livestock, which it exported mainly to the
Arabian peninsula. Most of its inhabitants were nomads, for whom the failure of seasonal rains was a grave calamity.

It had not yet been possible to balance its budget, and the Protectorate relied upon an annual grant-in-aid of approximately £700,000 from the United Kingdom.

A five-year development programme, ending in March 1960, was being carried out under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme. The funds under the programme - some £1,500,000 - were being utilized mainly for the development of natural and agricultural resources, the expansion of education and medical and health facilities, the provision of urban and rural water supplies, and the development of the port at Berbera. It was hoped that a new development plan could be launched in the post-1960 period.

The greatest needs were the provision of water for livestock; the development of fishing and agriculture to reduce dependence on livestock; the development of the proved deposits of gypsum and other minerals; the improvement of the communications system; and assistance in tuberculosis control and housing.

He was confident that ECA, in planning its activities in the continent, would give sympathetic consideration to any requests from the smaller territories, such as the Somaliland Protectorate, for technical and economic assistance.

Mr. COLES (International Civil Aviation Organization) pointed to the unique possibilities that air transport offered for underdeveloped countries, which could not afford to mark time pending the construction of roads and railroads.

Such countries were often deterred by the problem of financing the purchase of the necessary equipment, the problem of constructing airfields and the highly technical nature of air operations.

Fortunately, the difficulties were more formidable at a distance than at close range. He drew upon his own experience with the ICAO Technical Mission to Ethiopia to illustrate his point. In twelve short years Ethiopian Airlines had developed to such
an extent that it now operated from about thirty airfields, with regular services to most of them. Newly opened airstrips often developed at an amazing pace; at one in southwestern Ethiopia nearly 55,000 kg. of freight had been lifted in the first month of operation. Furthermore, the airstrip in question had been constructed by the local inhabitants in virgin forest, without mechanical equipment. Similar successes had been attained in the training of personnel.

While air transport was not a cure-all for all the communications problems of underdeveloped countries, it should be borne in mind that it needed little more than the terminal airfields, a moderate number of navigational aids and a modest complement of technical personnel for its operation.

After touching on the contribution of air transport to the development of tourism, he drew attention to ICAO's statistical services. Statistics were already available for a ten-year period, and were published semi-annually with summaries for longer periods.

Dr. EL HALAWANI (World Health Organization) was gratified to note the prominence given to public health work in the Commission's first session.

WHO's activities, like ECA's, were based solely on the needs and requirements of member States. Accordingly, he was confident that the Commission would from the outset wish to consult the WHO regional offices and draw upon their technical experience and expert knowledge.

Turning to the question of statistics, he drew attention to the Secretariat's proposal for a statistical survey of Africa (E/CN.14/4). United Nations statistical services had been striving to develop population census methods and the technical training of census officials for the forthcoming 1960-61 world census. WHO and OCTA had jointly sponsored the African Statistical Conference at Brazzaville in 1956, and WHO was co-operating with the United Nations in the field of vital statistics.
Accordingly, he hoped that statistics programmes could take account of the existing services and that WHO's co-operation would be sought.

In conclusion, he stressed the importance of consulting WHO regional offices in order to ensure optimum benefits, and also to avoid overlapping and duplication, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 671 (XXV).

Mr. MBOYA (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, drew attention to the contribution ICFTU colleges were making in training Africans for positions of responsibility. At present the courses were given in English, but the organization hoped eventually to set up similar institutions in North Africa, which would conduct their courses in French.

Turning to the role of ECA in Africa's future development, he said there was a point which he wished to stress particularly, though it had been mentioned in passing by other speakers - namely, the significant differences between the three categories of participants in ECA: independent African States, African territories nearing independence, and other territories which were still dependent.

Under the existing arrangements, the independent countries and the colonial Powers had full membership. With regard to the others, it was important to bear in mind the differences between the territories nearing independence and the colonial territories. In the former, decisions regarding economic and social programmes were made largely by the people In the latter, such matters were the exclusive responsibility of the colonial Powers.

The whole of Africa, independent and dependent territories alike, looked with hope to the newly established Commission. The former, however, by virtue of their membership and their responsibilities within the Commission, were in an infinitely better position than the latter to take full advantage of the forthcoming benefits. The hopes of the independent territories in ECA would be frustrated if it were to be merely a
rubber stamp for the colonial Powers and territorial governments representing their interests.

He pointed to the example of Kenya to illustrate his contention that those seated in the Commission did not necessarily interpret the true aspirations of the people of the territories.

He hoped that, as the Commission planned its activities in Africa, it would recognize those differences and not allow itself to become an instrument for the support of colonial interests. In that connection, the statements made by the representatives of the Federation of Nigeria and of Gambia merited careful attention.

Accordingly, in addressing itself to the problems of the dependent territories, ECA should not be blinded by such data as statistics submitted to show increased per capita income. Many other important factors had to be considered. In multi-racial communities, for example, vigilance was needed to ensure that the interests of the indigenous inhabitants were not neglected in such matters as working conditions, housing, wages and education.

Similarly, with regard to the points mentioned in the Executive Secretary's memorandum (E/CN.14/4), such as that dealing with training, he said the peoples of independent territories and those nearing independence should have an opportunity to ensure that the persons selected for training were truly representative and likely to make a positive contribution in their territory's ultimate development.

In the case of the dependent territories, the danger was that the wrong candidates might be chosen for training. In his own country, for example, where there was a mixture of racial groups, there was a tendency to give immigrants a privileged position to the exclusion of the indigenous population.

The programme of ECA, as of any other international agency, should ensure that those peoples attained political emancipation. For that purpose, it must give priority in training to those who would eventually be the responsible leaders.
To provide proper safeguards along the lines that he had suggested, the Commission might appoint committees to visit the dependent territories from time to time, and subject investment patterns to a careful scrutiny. Furthermore, to ensure that its aid was being properly channelled, it should receive periodic reports from the colonial Powers on all territories under their authority - including those which were allegedly assimilated.

In other words, ECA should not rely solely upon its contacts with the colonial Powers in the formulation of its programmes, but should ensure that the indigenous peoples were not prevented from enjoying fully the services and assistance available from the United Nations agencies.

Mr. MADAN (Kenya and Zanzibar) replying to certain references made by the representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to the policy of the Kenya Government, stated that there was no difference of opinion between the Kenya Government and the legitimate representatives of the different sections of Kenya. All communities in Kenya had equal opportunities for economic advancement. He could not accept the statement that Kenya was divided into the indigenous and the immigrant communities. All people living in Kenya formed the population.

Mr. MBOYA (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, replied to the representative of Kenya; he said that in the Legislative Council of Kenya, six million Africans were represented by fourteen elected members, 100,000 Asians by six elected members and 60,000 Europeans by fourteen elected members. In the Council of Ministers there were four European elected members, two Asians and places for two Africans. Those figures spoke for themselves.

Mr. BOONE (International Road Federation), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the aims and organization of the Federation were described briefly in the paper submitted jointly with the World Touring and Automobile Organization.
(E/CN.14/NGO.1). He welcomed the interest taken by the Commission in the development of international transport in Africa and referred to the draft resolution contained in document E/CN.14/L.11 which called for a study of international transport in West Africa. His Federation hoped that the Commission would undertake that task and extend its transport studies to other areas of Africa. It was felt that if intra-African trade was to be improved then the internal network of roads must be extended across frontiers. He referred to the Federation's work to improve the Cape to Nairobi road and to its investigations of a trade route from the vicinity of Bulawayo to a port on the West coast of Africa. Recent contacts with certain West African Governments had shown that there were good prospects for practical work in the field of international transport in West Africa and his Federation was planning to send some experts to the region in 1959 who would study a number of suggestions and decide on the practicability of carrying them out. The results would be placed at the Commission's disposal.

It was believed that improvements in international road transport were fundamental to the economic advancement of Africa and it was hoped that the Commission would carry out similar studies not only in West Africa but in other regions of Africa as soon as possible. His Federation was ready to co-operate actively with the Commission.

*The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.*
TWELFTH MEETING

Held on Tuesday 6 January 1959, at 11:15 a.m.

REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF THE CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FIRST SESSION

The... announced that, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the rules of procedure, the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen had examined the credentials of representatives to the first session of ECA and had found them to be in good and due form.

UNITED NATIONS AND MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC AID TO THE INDEPENDENT STATES AND TO THE TERRITORIES WAITING INDEPENDENCE IN AFRICA (E/CN.14/L.10 and Rev. 1 and 2, E/CN.14/L.20 and Add. 1, E/CN.14/L.33) (Resumed from the ninth meeting).

Mr. TESFAY GEBRE-EGZAY (Ethiopia) reminded the Commission of the reasons which had led the Ethiopian Government to request the inclusion in the agenda of the first session of ECA of the question of United Nations and multilateral economic aid to the independent States and to the territories awaiting independence in Africa. His delegation had felt that the submission of its draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.10/Rev.1) would facilitate the examination of that item of the agenda.

Commenting on various points in the draft resolution, he emphasized that the studies to be undertaken by the Commission with a view to determining the technical assistance needs of the African States should cover not only the independent States but also those territories which were about to become independent. The African continent constituted a single whole and the economies of the countries composing it should not be studied separately, as had been done in the past. Economic aid should enable the independent countries and those about to become independent to evolve from a subsistence economy to a modern economy, and should also enable countries in the latter category to consolidate their independence on a sound economic basis; that was a prerequisite for political stability, without which there was no true and lasting independence.

He went on to point out that the proposals contained in his delegation's draft resolution should make it possible to work out projects specifically designed for
Africa, in co-operation with the specialized agencies and organizations concerned and to set up a fund which would be administered by the Commission and from which those projects could be financed or, where appropriate, direct financial assistance could be furnished to African countries in need of such assistance.

With regard to the text of his delegation's draft resolution, operative paragraph 1 was no longer necessary, since the ideas expressed in it were to be embodied in the Commission's report. Operative paragraph 2 thus became paragraph 1 and the word "Invites" might be replaced by the words "expresses the hope that". The former paragraph 3 would become paragraph 2 and the word "Requests" might be replaced by the word "Recommends". He also proposed the addition of a new paragraph 3, drafted as follows: "Further expressed the hope that Member States will find means and possibilities of increasing technical and economic assistance to the African States and territories and especially to those territories about to become independent".

The draft resolution might be completed by a fourth paragraph reading as follows: "Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the next session on the measures taken to implement the present resolution".

Mr. KAREFA-SMART (Cambia and Sierra Leone) supported the Ethiopian draft resolution. He was grateful to the Ethiopian delegation for having made it clear that the Commission should not concern itself exclusively with the economies of independent African States, but should be concerned with the economies of all African countries whatever their present political status.

He would like to know if the words "territories about to become independent" referred only to States for which the date of accession to independence had already been fixed or to all States which aimed at independence. If, as he hoped, the latter interpretation was correct, the point should be more clearly expressed.
Mr. QASEM (Libya) said that he realized from the experience of his own country that technical assistance was particularly necessary for countries which were about to attain independence, as was stated in paragraph 3 of the revised draft resolution; at the same time, however, he took the view that such assistance should likewise be extended to the countries which possessed limited or unknown resources. For that reason he proposed that paragraph 3 should be amended to read: "..... in particular the countries and territories which have limited resources or whose resources are unknown, and the countries and territories which are awaiting independence".

Mr. WRIGHT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was prepared to accept the amendments suggested orally to the draft resolution submitted by the Ethiopian delegation; he hoped that the Commission would accept those proposed by the United Kingdom delegation (E/CN.14/L.33). In particular, he thought that the text proposed by his delegation for former paragraph 3 was preferable to the corresponding passage in the Ethiopian draft.

Mr. BEHEIRY (Sudan) expressed support for the amendments proposed by the representative of Libya and the United Kingdom.

Mr. QUAIDOO (Ghana), commenting on the amendment proposed by the representative of Libya, said that all countries had limited or unknown resources; consequently, the new paragraph 3 should refer solely to the States and territories of Africa, and the Executive Secretary should be allowed some latitude in deciding in what countries the need for technical assistance was most acute.

Mr. SLIM (Tunisia) commended the motives underlying the Ethiopian draft resolution. He thought it was pertinent to mention that the General Assembly had adopted a resolution, sponsored by his delegation, which emphasized the need for technical assistance in countries such as Libya.
Mr. QASEM (Libya) said that if a resolution of the General Assembly laid special stress on the needs of certain countries in regard to technical assistance, then a fortiori, a resolution of the Economic Commission for Africa should stress those needs.

Mr. MANASSE LEMMA (Ethiopia), replying to comments concerning his delegation's draft resolution, said he accepted the suggestion of the representative of Sierra Leone; the words "territories awaiting independence" meant all the territories advancing towards independence and not only those in respect of which the date of attainment of independence had been set.

In reply to the representative of Libya, he said that, if some particular category or categories of countries were expressly referred to, the scope of the resolution might well suffer. It had been intentionally drafted in general terms; he was, however, prepared to consider a formula which would satisfy the Libyan representative.

So far as the United Kingdom amendments were concerned, there were no serious differences between the United Kingdom delegation's point of view and that of his own delegation. Lastly, with reference to the observations of the representative of Ghana, the difficulty might be removed if the passage in question stated that the special needs of the States should receive particular consideration.

The CHAIRMAN said he gathered that opinion was not seriously divided and accordingly he suggested that a small drafting committee consisting of the representatives who had spoken in the debate, should be appointed to work out an agreed text.

It was so agreed.

The CHAIRMAN next invited the Commission to consider the draft resolution presented by Ghana, Guinea, Morocco and Tunisia, (E/CN.14/L.20) which he read out.
Mr. QASEM (Libya) said that his country, like Guinea, had been in economic straits when it attained independence. The United Nations and various other institutions had helped it to surmount its difficulties; he hoped that Guinea would have the benefit of similar assistance. His delegation would support the draft resolution and asked to be included among its sponsors.

Mr. WRIGHT (United Kingdom) said that his Government welcomed Guinea's admission to the United Nations. He recognized that country's need for all possible assistance to enable it to pursue its economic development but thought it might be dangerous to adopt a draft resolution designed to assist a single country. The Ethiopian draft resolution should be sufficient to provide Guinea with all the help it required.

Mr. TOURE (Guinea) thanked the Libyan representative for his statement and said that Libya would be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution. It was because Guinea's special situation ought to be obvious to all that none of the sponsors had previously presented the draft resolution. Although the Ethiopian draft resolution might indeed apply, Guinea was in a special situation. It had been receiving a certain type of economic assistance under a plan put into effect in 1957, but the assistance had ceased abruptly on 28 September 1958 when Guinea had become independent. That explained the young country's present material difficulties. Since acquiring independence, Guinea had become a Member of the United Nations, and the Organization should supplement with economic assistance the political support it had accorded to Guinea. It would not be establishing a precedent, as the United Kingdom representative seemed to fear, or granting Guinea privileged treatment. The sponsors of the draft resolution had merely wished to draw the Commission's attention to the need for a new form of assistance for Guinea.

Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) followed the Libyan representative in requesting that Liberia should be included among the sponsors of the draft resolution regarding Guinea (E/CN.14/L.20).
The draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.20) was put to the vote.

The draft resolution was adopted by 10 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions.

Mr. WRIGHT (United Kingdom), explaining his vote, said that he had abstained because he felt that Guinea's case was covered by the Ethiopian draft resolution. Hence, his abstention should not be interpreted as reflecting a position hostile to Guinea, whose admission to the United Nations had been supported by the United Kingdom.

**DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**

The CHAIRMAN had an eight-Power draft resolution read out, whereby the Commission's next session would take place at Tangier between January and March 1960, the exact date to be established by negotiation between the Executive Secretary and the Moroccan Government.

Mr. BEN KIRANE (Morocco) said he was happy to confirm his Government's invitation, which was appropriate not only because Tangier had been among the African cities considered for the Commission's headquarters, but because it belonged to a part of the African continent quite different from that of Addis Ababa.

He thanked those delegations which had refrained from proposing other sites for the session.

Mr. BEHEIRY (Sudan) said that he would support the eight-Power proposal if the secretariat had no objections. It would have to be decided, however, how often sessions should be held away from headquarters.

Mr. Mekki ABBAS (Executive Secretary) saw no obstacle to holding the next session at Tangier, particularly as Africa Hall, in which the Commission's future sessions at Addis Ababa would be held, would not be completed by 1960. The Commission could decide at its second session whether it would meet away from its headquarters at two-year or three-year intervals.
Mr. WRIGHT (United Kingdom) supported the proposal and thanked the Moroccan Government for its invitation. His delegation agreed with the Sudan representative that the question of the frequency of sessions away from ECA headquarters should be settled as soon as possible. It preferred that sessions should be held away from Addis Ababa only every third year.

Mr. SLIM (Tunisia) considered that sessions away from headquarters should be held every two years. He also proposed that the word "March" should be replaced by "April" in the operative part of the joint draft resolution.

Mr. Mekki ABBAS (Executive Secretary) said that a session in April would involve staffing difficulties, since ECOSOC would be holding its spring session at that time; moreover, the Secretariat would not have enough time in which to prepare the documentation which it must submit to ECOSOC in July.

Mr. QASEM (Libya) pointed out that under rule 3 of the rules of procedure the date and place of the session could be altered if necessary.

Mr. KAREFA-SMART (Gambia and Sierra-Leone), referring to the financial implications, said it would be costly to move the Commission; he hoped that optimum use would be made of United Nations funds in the common economic interest.

He would be better able to support the eight-Power proposal if the inviting Government could give assurance that it would assume the additional cost entailed by the move.

Mr. Mekki ABBAS (Executive Secretary) said that the first session to be held away from ECA headquarters would enable a more accurate estimate to be made of the expenses involved and that the question raised by the Sudanese and United Kingdom representatives could be dealt with more effectively in the light of the experience gained.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that in the absence of objections to the joint draft resolution, the Commission might consider it adopted.

It was so decided.

Mr. BEN KIRANE (Morocco) thanked the members of the Commission for having accepted his Government's invitation.

The meeting rose at 12:40 p.m.
Mr. TESFAY GEBRE-EGZY (Ethiopia) said that after conversations with the representatives of Ghana, Libya and the United Kingdom, his delegation had been able to prepare a revised text (E/CN.14/L.10/Rev.2) of its earlier draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.10/Rev.1).

The general purpose of the draft resolution was to promote the extension of technical and economic assistance to independent African States and to dependent territories, with the emphasis on those which were about to become independent, though there was no intention to discriminate between the two categories.

Comparing the two texts, he observed that in the third paragraph of the preamble, the word "only" had been omitted.

In the last paragraph of the preamble, the words "and prosperity" had been inserted, for it had been felt that world peace and prosperity went together.

Operative paragraph 1 of the new text had the same purport as paragraph 2 of the operative part as set forth in document E/CN.14/L.10/Rev.1.

In paragraph 2 of the new text, the words "to continue" had been inserted before the words "to keep in mind ...", in recognition of the fact that the Economic and Social Council had had the situation under review in the past.

In operative paragraph 3, the phrase "special consideration being given to countries passing through a critical phase" had been added. The words "territories" and "countries" related both to territories which were about to become independent and to those which might not attain independence immediately, as well as to independent States which were faced with acute economic difficulties.

It had been agreed to leave the title of the draft untouched so as to make it clear that the resolution related not only to independent States but also to
Mr. van ROS (Belgium) said the Belgian delegation was glad to support the Ethiopian draft resolution and wished to pay a tribute to the goodwill which both the Ethiopian delegation itself and the authors of the amendments had displayed in their efforts to arrive at a text acceptable to all.

He would like to explain that his delegation's negative vote at the preceding meeting on the draft resolution relating to Guinea (E/14.14/L.20) had not in any way been directed against Guinea, but had been motivated by considerations of logic alone. It had seemed impossible to support a resolution which undeniably established a priority in favour of a particular country, especially since a small committee had met at the Chairman's own request in order to work out a text which would avoid all discrimination. It had seemed logical to await the results of that committee's work before taking any action on the resolution of Guinea.

It was his conviction that the text put forward by the Ethiopian delegation was well designed on a purely economic basis, to secure to all African States and territories, including Guinea, the assistance they needed.

Mr. WRIGHT (United Kingdom) said his delegation was most grateful to the Ethiopian delegation and others for their efforts to meet its objections.

Mr. BEHEIRY (Sudan) asked whether the words "economic and" had been deliberately omitted before the phrase "technical assistance" in the fourth paragraph of the preamble.

Mr. SESTAFEL GEBRE-EGZI (Ethiopia) replied that the omission had been inadvertent and should be rectified.
Mr. BETTIOL (Italy) said his delegation was happy to be able to vote for the draft resolution, which it considered an important document.

Mr. TOURE (Guinea) said he would like to thank the Ethiopian delegation for the spirit of solidarity it had displayed in preparing the revised text. The support which had been given his own delegation's draft resolution would undoubtedly be accorded to the Ethiopian draft, which should be adopted unanimously.

The revised draft resolution of the delegation of Ethiopia, as amended, (E/CN.14/L.10/Rev.2) was adopted unanimously.

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES (E/CN.14/L.31/Rev.1, E/CN.14/L.35) (concluded)

Report of the Committee on the Programme of Work and Priorities (E/CN.14/L.35)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Chairman of the Committee to introduce its report (E/CN.14/L.35).

Mr. SLIM (Tunisia), Chairman of the Committee on the Programme of Work and Priorities, said the Committee had decided to list the many draft resolutions that had been presented and then to adopt a general statement embodying the substance of all the draft resolutions in the form of recommendations to the Executive Secretary.

All the members of the Committee, and particularly Professor Lewis of the delegation of Ghana, had made valuable contributions to the discussion, and the report had ultimately been approved with a large measure of agreement.

Mr. WRIGHT (United Kingdom) congratulated the Chairman of the Committee on the report.
Mr. GALSWORTHY (United Kingdom), speaking as United Kingdom representative on the Committee, said he was grateful to the Chairman of the Committee for his able and inspired leadership. He associated himself with the Committee Chairman's tribute to Professor Lewis.

In preparing the programme of work and priorities, all the members of the Committee had excercised restraint, for they had no wish to impose too heavy a burden on the Executive Secretary in the Commission's first year. Nevertheless, the programme was ambitious; but his delegation had complete confidence in the Executive Secretary's ability to cope with it. It would be noted from the final paragraph of the report that a meeting of representatives of members and associate members was to be held shortly before the Commission's next session to review what had been done by the Executive Secretary and consider the programme for the following year. His delegation would like to assure the Executive Secretary that if he found himself unable to make progress with all items of the programme, he would receive the United Kingdom delegation's sympathetic understanding. His delegation gave the work programme its full support.

Mr. Mekki ABBAS, (Executive Secretary) pointed out that in paragraph 29(vii) of the report the second sentence should be deleted.

Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (France) associated himself with the tributes that had been paid to the Chairman of the Committee. The Commission could best express its appreciation of the report by giving it prompt approval.

Mr. MANASSE LEMMA (Ethiopia) expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the report.
Mr. MIKAEL IMRU (Ethiopia), speaking as a member of the Committee, expressed his delegation's interest and pleasure in participating in the Committee's work. He paid a tribute to the Chairman of the Committee and to the most helpful contribution of Professor Lewis of the delegation of Ghana.

His delegation was aware that in 1959 the Executive Secretary would be mainly concerned with the organization of his office and staff. Nevertheless, the programme prepared by the Committee implied the expectation that the Commission would be able to make its due contribution to the economic and social advancement of the peoples of Africa. He would like to take the opportunity of congratulating the Executive Secretary on the memoranda which he had written; they had been of great assistance to the Committee, and he wished Mr Abbas complete success in his future efforts. With reference to the programme of work and priorities, he expressed the hope that the Executive Secretary would be given the necessary resources for undertaking the extensive task that had been set before him and receive the financial and technical support of the United Nations.

Since the substance of the Ethiopian delegation's draft resolutions had been embodied in the report, his delegation was glad to endorse the report, which on the whole represented a balanced programme.

With reference to training and the possibilities of establishing a regional institute, it was recommended in paragraph 18 of the report that the Executive Secretary should request UNESCO to survey the facilities available for the training of Africans in economics, statistics and related fields of study, and that, should the UNESCO survey indicate the need for a new institute, the Executive Secretary should consult governments and other interested bodies with a view to putting the matter before the next session of the Commission. In that connexion he thought it would be in the interests of the African countries if, among other things, the relevant studies took into full consideration the skills of which the African countries were so vitally in need. Particular emphasis should be placed upon the type of training needed for the purpose of teaching specific skills in economic planning, programme development planning and the preparation and execution of projects concerned with agriculture, mining, industry and transport.
Mr. QUADOO (Ghana) associated himself with the previous speakers in expressing appreciation of the Committee's work. The Committee had enabled the Commission to complete its programme by the target date. All points of view had been coherently summarized.

Mr. LEWIS (Ghana), speaking as representative of Ghana on the Committee, said he wished to associate himself with the tributes paid to the Chairman of the Committee, and to thank those who had referred to his own contribution to the Committee's work.

Mr. van ROS (Belgium) endorsed the statements made by other representatives regarding the report and the work of the Committee.

Mr. MENDJRA (Morocco) said that, though his delegation had not had the honour to participate in the Committee's work, it was most grateful for what had been done.

He had been very pleased to see that the Commission's terms of reference emphasized the social aspect of economic development, thereby reinforcing a trend manifest in the work of the General Assembly itself. At its twelfth session, the Assembly had stressed the interdependence of the economic and social aspects of development, and at its thirteenth session, it had gone further and requested the Economic and Social Council to make recommendations to Governments as to how economic development could be improved by placing greater emphasis on the social aspects. He would like to ask the Executive Secretary to lead the way in the search for the best means of pursuing that line of action so far as the African countries were concerned.

He noted that the recommendation contained in paragraph 10 of the Committee's report was the only one explicitly subject to the prior consent of the Governments concerned. The explicit stipulation of that condition was, he considered, superfluous, especially since paragraph 1 of the Commission's terms of reference (E/CN.14/1) made the general proviso that the Commission should take no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country. He was sure the Executive Secretary would not, in fact, undertake any study without the prior consent of the Government concerned.
Mr. QUAIDOO (Ghana) pointed out that a similar proviso was also contained in the last sentence of paragraph 9 of the Committee's report.

Mr. Mekki ABBAS (Executive Secretary) said he was sure the Commission would not like to place him in a difficult or embarrassing position. The subject to which paragraphs 9 and 10 of the report related was concerted action, the importance of which was specifically stressed in the Commission's terms of reference. There must be no doubt that Governments on whose behalf concerted action was taken would make use of the study that was produced, for otherwise much effort and money would be wasted. He would therefore be acting in conformity with the Commission's terms of reference if, in such cases, he first ascertained whether Governments were really interested in having the work done.

The report (E/CN.14/L.25) with the correction to paragraph 29(vii) pointed out by the Executive Secretary, was approved.

Draft resolution admitted by the Delegation of Portugal (E/CN.14/L.31 Rev.1)

Mr. ABECASSIS (Portugal), introducing his delegation's draft resolution, said that the title of the draft should be "International collaboration within the framework of the Economic Commission for Africa". He added that in the third paragraph of the preamble the words "concerted action" should be replaced by "international collaboration".

Mr. QUAIDOO (Ghana) proposed that the Portuguese draft resolution should be deemed to relate to item 9 of the agenda (United Nations and multilateral economic aid to the independent States and to the territories awaiting independence in Africa) rather than to item 7.

It was so agreed.

Mr. TOURE (Guinea) thought that the terms of the draft resolution under discussion were covered by the Ethiopian resolution (E/CN.14/L.10 Rev.2) which had already been adopted, and suggested that the Portuguese delegation might withdraw its text.

Mr. ABECASSIS (Portugal) said that the two resolutions were mutually complementary.
Mr. WRIGHT (United Kingdom) proposed that in operative paragraph 1 the passage "will voluntarily place technical assistance ..." to the end of the paragraph should be replaced by "will voluntarily make available technical assistance facilities to further the work of the Commission".

Mr. ABECASSIS (Portugal) accepted the amendment.

Mr. BEHEIRY (Sudan) supported the draft resolution, as amended, by the United Kingdom.

The draft resolution (E/CN.14/L.31/Rev.1), as amended, was adopted by 9 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (E/CN.14/L.34 and Add.1)

Mr. MORRIS (Liberia), speaking as Chairman of the Committee which had been appointed to draft the report, introduced the Commission's report to the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.14/L.34 and Add.1). He drew attention to the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Council at its next session, appended as part IV of the report.

Mr. KOTSCHNIG (United States of America), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, pointed out that the Council's standard formula with regard to reports submitted to it was "Takes note of ... and endorses, etc.". He therefore proposed that the draft resolution should be amended in keeping with the Council's accepted practice.

It was so decided.

Mr. GEORGES-PICOT (France), Mr. MANASSE LEMMA (Ethiopia), Mr. QASEM (Libya) Mr. ABECASSIS (Portugal), Mr. SLIM (Tunisia), Mr. EM NENJERA (Morocco), Mr. PETTIOL (Italy), Mr. QUAIDOO (Ghana), Mr. van ROS (Belgium), and Mr. WRIGHT (United Kingdom) spoke in support of the draft report and paid a tribute to the Committee and its Chairman for having submitted such an excellent report and for having completed its work with such dispatch.

Mr. KAREFA-SMART (Gambia and Sierra Leone), speaking also on behalf of the delegation of the Somaliland Protectorate, commended both the report to the Council and
the programme of work and priorities already adopted. He believed that the Commission would benefit in every way from both the documents.

The report to the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.14/L.34 and Add.1), as amended, was adopted unanimously.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

Mr. BEN KIRANE (Morocco) said that it was customary to congratulate the Chairman at the end of a conference. On that occasion, he thought that, in addition, the Commission should express thanks to His Imperial Majesty and to the Ethiopian Government for the warm hospitality shown to the Commission. For that purpose he submitted a draft resolution which he believed would be adopted unanimously (E/CN.14/L.38).

Mr. MORRIS (Liberia) seconded the Moroccan draft resolution.

Mr. van ROS (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the French, Italian and Belgian delegations, supported the draft resolution and offered renewed thanks to the Imperial Ethiopian Government and congratulations to the Chairman and to all those who had contributed to the successful conclusion of the first session of the Commission. It was only the beginning of its work and much depended on the Executive Secretary and his staff. The most important results of the first session lay in the human contacts which had been made and in the expressions of solidarity in the desire to improve the standard of living of the African peoples.

Mr. QUAIDOO (Ghana) said that he was happy to support the Moroccan draft resolution. The Commission could feel satisfaction in having laid the foundation stone of economic development in Africa. He believed that co-operation among the African countries would as a consequence be encouraged, strengthened and maintained.

Mr. QASEM (Libya) and Mr. BEHEIRY (Sudan) associated themselves with the sentiments of the previous speakers and spoke in support of the Moroccan draft resolution.
Mr. TOURE (Guinea) also supported the draft resolution. He said that his country was very young and inexperienced, and hence it needed the support of international solidarity. He hoped that the Commission, by contributing to the economic development and emancipation of Africa, would also contribute to the unity of African countries and world friendship.

Mr. WRIGHT (United Kingdom) supported the draft resolution. He said that it was remarkable that the Commission at its initial session should have made so much progress in so short a time. Referring to the United Kingdom representative's statement in the general debate in which he had urged the Commission to concentrate on economics and to avoid politics, he thought that, with a few exceptions, the Commission had heeded those words. The fact that his delegation had not sought to challenge certain statements which could be interpreted as criticism of the United Kingdom Government's policies did not by any means signify acceptance of those statements. His delegation had refrained from replying to those statements because it was inspired solely by a sincere desire to preserve the harmony of the Commission. He expressed his delegation's gratitude for the keen personal interest taken by the Emperor of Ethiopia in the work of the Commission.

Mr. STAPLETON (Federation of Nigeria) asked if the Commission would consent to hear a recorded statement by the head of his delegation, Chief Okotie-Eboh, who had been compelled to leave Addis Ababa the previous day.

The Commission agreed to that request.

Chief OKOTIE-EBOH (Federation of Nigeria), in a recorded statement, expressed his thanks to His Imperial Majesty and to the people of Ethiopia for the hospitality shown to his delegation and his appreciation of the contribution made to the smooth running of the Commission's work by the Chairman, the members, the Executive Secretary, the Under-Secretary and the secretariat.
Some years earlier, an economic commission for the development of Africa would have been unthinkable. Thanks were, therefore, due to the United Nations for having set up the new Commission.

After a period during which the civilization of Asia had dominated the world, the predominance had passed to the West. In view of the prodigious scientific advances made by the West, it now seemed doubtful whether its civilization would continue to exist for the benefit of mankind or whether it would lead to its own destruction. Unless science was used to promote human welfare, the latter outcome was inevitable and the world would be forced to realize that the next civilization would come from Africa.

He would urge the metropolitan Powers with interests in Africa to help to develop the economic potentialities of the continent, since that was the only way in which they could, in the long run, ensure their own future economic growth.

As the Vice-President of the United States had said on the conclusion of his 1957 goodwill tour of Africa, the free world had a vital interest in assisting the peoples of Africa to obtain recognition of their equality in the family of nations. Africa was emerging as one of the great forces in the world today.

Mr. SHIATI (United Arab Republic), Mr. ABE CASSIS (Portugal), and Mr. IBANEZ (Spain) expressed their thanks for the hospitality extended to their delegations by His Imperial Majesty and by the Ethiopian Government and people; they supported the draft resolution of Morocco.

The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of any objection, he would regard the draft resolution of Morocco (E/CN.14/L.38) as having been adopted unanimously.

Mr. MANASEE LEMA (Ethiopia) said it would be a great pleasure for him to convey to His Imperial Majesty the vote of thanks just adopted by the Commission.
Mr. QASEM (Libya) said he felt sure he was speaking on behalf of all members of the Commission in expressing sincere good wishes to His Imperial Majesty, to the Chairman and to the members of the Ethiopian delegation on the occasion of the Ethiopian Christmas.

The CHAIRMAN said that the goodwill expressed during the general debate by the representatives of Governments, the specialized agencies and other organizations provided reassuring evidence that the welfare of the peoples of Africa was the concern not only of that continent, but of other parts of the world. The Commission would reap a rich harvest if it took full advantage of that goodwill.

At the time of his election as Chairman, he had felt that the Commission had an immense task before it and that it was hampered by a wide diversity of traditions and cultural backgrounds. It had achieved some measure of success in co-ordinating the various approaches to African problems. As a result of the admirable self-restraint exercised by its members, those problems had been viewed from a long-term and continental point of view. Much give-and-take and compromise had been needed in order to co-ordinate and harmonise the documents relating to a number of items, in particular, to the programme of work and priorities, and heads of delegations had shown an understanding of the special circumstances of other members, which augured well for the Commission's future.

But the peoples of Africa were interested less in the work of committees and in the adoption of resolutions than in practical results which would improve their standard of living. He therefore trusted that, with the support expressed by the African States and territories and by the metropolitan Powers, the Executive Secretary, whose hard work and efficiency were generally recognized, would succeed in translating the Commission's decisions into action.

In discharging his duties as Chairman, he had received the support of the Under-
Secretary for Economic Affairs, the Executive Secretary, the Secretary and members of the Commission, for whose unfailing courtesy he was deeply grateful.

Mr. Mekki ABBAS (Executive Secretary) said that after he had accepted the post of Executive Secretary, and he began to think about it, he had wondered in what way it would be possible for the new Commission to make useful contributions to the economies in Africa. With the approval of the programme of work and priorities, which he believed contained many projects of practical value, he felt optimistic about the Commission's future. He was grateful to delegations for the practical approach they had adopted towards that item of the agenda.

Several speakers had said during the general debate that the Commission would have to rely largely on the Executive Secretary and his staff to throw light on the work to be undertaken by the Commission. He believed, however, that an Executive Secretary who invariably waited for guidance from his commission was not the right man for the job and that, *vice versa*, a commission which relied exclusively on its Executive Secretary was not following the most helpful course. The work of the session had shown that his own preparatory work and its consideration by the Commission had together contributed to the development of a sound programme of work.

The next step was to give effect to the decisions taken, which would not be an easy task. He knew, however, that he could count on the support and friendship of members and associate members of the Commission. The greatest problem would be to obtain the right staff. He would spare no effort to recruit staff of high quality, and he felt sure he would receive the assistance of members should he find it necessary to request it.

The CHAIRMAN declared the first session of the Economic Commission for Africa closed.

*The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.*