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	<i>Pages</i>
Tribute to the memory of Dr. William Dean.....	209
Economic development of under-developed countries : report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter III) (A/1884 and A/1924) ( <i>continued</i> ).	
(b) Land Reform (A/C.2/L.76/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.82, A/C.2/L.131, A/C.2/L.132 and A/C.2/L.133) ( <i>continued</i> ).....	209
(c) Technical assistance for the economic development of under-developed countries ( <i>resumed</i> ).....	214
Rapporteur's draft report.....	214

*Chairman* : Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand).

**Tribute to Memory of Dr. William Dean**

1. Mr. OWEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs) paid tribute to the memory of Dr. William Dean, son-in-law of the United States representative, Mr. Channing Tobias, and a member of the Department of Economic Affairs, who had died the previous day in New York.

2. He spoke of Dr. Dean's valuable work, particularly in connexion with the report on Africa which the Committee would consider in dealing with the next item on its agenda, and expressed the sense of loss which would be felt by the Secretariat. On behalf of members of the Committee and of his Department, he extended his deepest sympathy to Dr. Dean's family.

3. The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the Committee, also expressed his sympathy with the family of the deceased.

4. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) associated his delegation with the tribute paid to Dr. Dean. As President of the Economic and Social Council he had appreciated Dr. Dean's contribution to the work of the United Nations.

**Economic development of under-developed countries : report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter III) (A/1884<sup>1</sup> and A/1924) (*continued*)**

**(b) Land reform (A/C.2/L.76/Rev.1, A/C.2/L.82, A/C.2/L.131, A/C.2/L.132 and A/C.2/L.133) (*continued*)**

[Item 26]\*

5. Mr. ORMSBY-GORE (United Kingdom), introducing the amendments submitted by his delegation (A/C.2/

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Supplement No. 3.*

\* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly agenda.

L.132) to the amendments submitted by Chile and India (A/C.2/L.131) to the revised joint draft resolution submitted by Brazil, Israel, Pakistan, Thailand and the United States of America (A/C.2/L.76/Rev.1), said that they were minor amendments and hoped that the Chilean and Indian representatives would accept them.

6. At the 178th meeting the Chilean representative had indeed acknowledged the validity of the arguments in support of the first United Kingdom amendment which would add at the beginning of the new paragraph proposed in the second Chilean-Indian amendment the following words :

*"Urges* the Governments of Member States, in working out their final policies, to give active consideration to making funds available for projects of agrarian reform and invites the institutions..."

7. The second amendment was drafted in the same terms as the relevant paragraph of Economic and Social Council resolution 294 (XI) and would insert at the end of that paragraph proposed by the Chilean-Indian joint amendment, the words : "consistent with the maintenance of these institutions as self-supporting entities".

8. Mr. SAKSIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that the USSR representative had fully stated the position of his delegation on the question of land reform in the course of the general debate (177th meeting), and had at the same time supported the draft resolution on that subject submitted by the Polish delegation (A/C.2/L.82). His delegation would continue to support that draft resolution, as it considered that the concrete measures proposed therein would promote improvements in the agriculture of the under-developed countries in the interests of the farmers themselves.

9. Clearly, however, any recommendations on land reform fell essentially within the domestic jurisdiction

of countries, and any action undertaken should necessarily be adapted, as had been pointed out by the Egyptian and other representatives, to the particular conditions prevailing in each of the under-developed countries. No uniform measures could be imposed from outside those countries, nor should their independence be in any way endangered by any measures which might be taken.

10. Under the able guidance of the Chairman, the Committee had taken the lead in the General Assembly by adopting unanimously a number of resolutions expressing a sincere desire for co-operation by delegations.

11. Mr. KHOMAN (Thailand) said that his delegation had been happy to become one of the co-sponsors of the revised joint draft resolution, as it fully recognized the vital importance of land reform, not only in economic and social development but also as a factor in peace and stability. The agrarian system was an essential aspect of the national economy and every effort should therefore be directed towards its improvement. The revised joint draft resolution, embodying the recommendations of Economic and Social Council resolution 370 (XIII), provided an adequate basis for a sound programme of work to be undertaken by the governments concerned. However, unless financial and technical assistance were forthcoming from the United Nations or from some other source, the ultimate objectives of that resolution might not be attained within a reasonable time.

12. A number of the problems referred to in the recommendations of Council resolution 370 (XIII) had been adequately tackled or were in process of being solved in Thailand. A cultivator who obtained the title conferring ownership was assured of full administrative and judicial protection for his tenure. The problem in Thailand was rather to ensure that the farmers became the owners of the land. Because of governmental action and favourable circumstances, that difficulty had been substantially resolved and farmers had been able either to redeem mortgages encumbering their land or to acquire the land on which they had previously been working as tenants. Considerable improvements in that respect had been brought about over the past few years, and more than two-thirds of the farmers had already become landowners. In terms of production, the export of rice had increased from less than 400,000 tons yearly at the end of the war to almost 1,500,000 tons in the past year.

13. For those who remained tenants of their land, a recently-enacted law provided for rentals fixed according to the yield of the land and not in any case exceeding 25 per cent of the crop. That measure represented a marked improvement on the previous situation indicated in the report mentioned by the Polish representative. Future measures of the same kind would forbid ownership of unduly large holdings, especially by persons who did not work them.

14. Taxation other than indirect taxation, was very low and most irrigation works were undertaken by the state depending upon budgetary resources. The Government also supplied farmers with high-quality rice seed and modern agricultural equipment. The use of agricultural machinery would have been expanded still further but for the insufficiency of foreign exchange and the high cost of imported machinery.

15. Co-operatives had met with considerable success in Thailand and would continue to expand rapidly. Scientific research and agricultural credit were not as yet, however, adequately developed, and the Government was making every effort to improve the situation. Thailand had received valuable assistance from the United Nations and from other sources in connexion with the Agricultural Research Centre near Bangkok.

16. He was convinced that the importance which his country attached to land reform was shared particularly by other countries of the region, whose prosperity and well-being depended to such a very great extent on the land.

17. Mr. NARIELWALA (India) associated himself with the tributes paid to the Secretary-General's report, *Land Reform: Defects in Agrarian Structure as Obstacles to Economic Development*<sup>2</sup>, and hoped that further information, particularly on steps taken in agriculturally-advanced countries, would be submitted.

18. Both the revised joint draft resolution and the Polish draft contained recommendations to which no objection on principle could be raised. Nevertheless, in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Constitution, which specifically laid down that adequate compensation should be paid to persons whose properties were taken over by the Government in the national interest, his delegation could not support any recommendation resembling expropriation.

19. He welcomed the practical suggestion made at the previous meeting by the Czechoslovak representative that parts of the Polish draft resolution should be incorporated in the revised joint draft in order to obtain unanimity. He agreed with the USSR representative that the submission by the Second Committee to the General Assembly of unanimously-adopted resolutions constituted a tribute to the Chairman.

20. He appealed to the sponsors of the revised joint draft resolution to incorporate the various paragraphs of the Polish draft resolution with the exception of paragraph 2 (c) and (f). Although his delegation agreed in principle with the recommendation of paragraph 2 (f), such a step would be premature and would place an unduly heavy financial burden on under-developed countries such as his own.

21. It had been recognized in India for many years past that land reform was urgently called for in the interest both of agricultural development and production and of political and economic stability. The report of the Secretary-General referred to the complexity of the land problem in India, a legacy of its erstwhile rulers, and to the steps being taken by the various provincial governments to introduce a certain measure of uniformity and order. Although the first steps in reforming the system of large land estates, with its multitude of intermediaries and its absentee landlords, had been taken in 1937, no real progress had been achieved until after 1947. However, it was essential to recognize that land reform was a long-term undertaking.

22. Legislative powers in land reform rested with the provincial or state governments and not with the Central Government, though there existed unanimity on the general objective of abolishing the outmoded system of land tenure. Eight of the major provinces had

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Publications, Sales No. : 1951.II.B.3.

passed acts for the dismemberment of large estates and for the settling of cultivators with peasant proprietary rights, and similar legislation was being prepared in other states. There also existed, however, the equally important problem of small and uneconomic holdings which, at some stage or another, would have to be consolidated into individual economic farms or co-operative farms. In view of the varying conditions prevailing in the different provinces, the provincial governments established requirements for "standard areas" which would constitute an economic holding. Furthermore, the rate and method of compensation varied from province to province but was usually determined as a capitalized sum of net income. The method of payment was in thirty-year non-convertible two and one half per cent interest bonds of guaranteed face value, and in some States compensation was paid partly in cash and partly in bonds. Experiments were also being carried out in some States to collect compensation from tenants who acquired in exchange quasi-proprietary rights to their holdings.

23. The estimate of 300 million pounds sterling, arrived at by the land reform experts as the total amount of compensation that one provincial government would be liable to pay, showed the magnitude of the financial implications of land reform in India. Financial assistance from international finance organizations was essential if rapid progress were to be achieved. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development had already granted India a small loan for financing a project of land clearance, but the Indian Government wished to see that process of international lending greatly accelerated for all under-developed countries faced with that problem.

24. Consequently, in association with the Chilean delegation, his delegation had sponsored an amendment (A/C.2/L.131) which would give a practical complexion to the draft resolution before the Committee. When doubts were expressed of the ability of under-developed countries effectively to use large-scale international financial assistance such as that visualized by the Group of Experts in their report on *Measures for the Economic Development of Under-developed Countries* (E/1986)<sup>3</sup>, the need for such assistance in carrying out land reform was often overlooked. It would be of value for the Secretary-General to study the many financial implications of comprehensive land reform in under-developed countries.

25. The delegation of India agreed with the purpose of the amendments submitted by the United Kingdom delegation (A/C.2/L.132) and would incorporate them in its own amendments. He stressed that the under-developed countries desired financial assistance not only to compensate land owners but also to develop new areas. They also needed assistance in technical methods and equipment in order to improve their agrarian economies.

26. Redistribution of land and compensation were only preliminary steps to be taken towards land reform, but they did not solve related problems.

27. The first problem was the settlement and liquidation of inequitable debts weighing heavily on the peasants and incurred by them often in times of economic distress, or in observance of ancient customs and ceremonies performed at each birth, marriage and death.

28. The second problem was the reform of the system of land management and methods of agriculture, including the prohibition of sub-letting.

29. The third concerned the changes in tenancy laws to ensure to the farmers security of tenure, fair fixing of rents and equitable sharing of crops according to size of farm, types of crops and improvement expected in the holding, and to prohibit all other levies, which were unjust and illegal.

30. The fourth problem was the consolidation of holdings in order to reduce the number of small uneconomic distress, or in observance of ancient customs and report, considerable success had been achieved in that direction by the co-operative method. By 1949 about 1,600,000 acres had been consolidated and the number of plots had been reduced from 4,250,000 to 646,000. The process was continuing on an increasing scale.

31. Fifthly, the consolidation of holdings was accompanied by the organization of co-operative farming, which would considerably improve agricultural production. Many of the state governments had offered a number of inducements, such as rebate in land revenue, income tax reduction or exemption, and financial and technical assistance, to encourage co-operative farms.

32. Sixth came the problem of establishing co-operative credit produce and distribution societies, including industrial co-operatives.

33. The seventh problem was to supply improved varieties of seeds at reasonable or subsidized prices to extend the use of organic and inorganic manures, to introduce better types of agricultural equipment, to reconstruct water tanks and channels, to provide embankments and drainage facilities, to sink wells, and to control pests and plants and animal diseases. A large synthetic-fertilizer plant which had recently been opened in India would shortly be capable of producing 1,000 tons of ammonium sulphate daily. That plant was entirely owned by the Government of India and it was its intention to sell that fertilizer at cost price in order that cultivators might get it cheaply and without profiteering.

34. Eighth, action was required to plan and regulate crops and to maintain proper standards of cultivation.

35. The ninth and final problem was to bring fallow and uncultivated lands into cultivation in order slightly to reduce the pressure on land resulting from the increase in population. The existing river-valley projects would open new lands for agricultural development and make it possible to employ part of India's landless labour.

36. As stressed by the representatives of Chile and Egypt in particular, the execution of such programmes depended to a certain extent on the internal resources of the under-developed countries, and also on financial assistance afforded by international institutions. If such assistance were not forthcoming, India would continue with its plans to the extent of its financial resources, although to do so might increase its difficulties in maintaining internal peace and stability. He commended the joint amendment (A/C.2/L.131) to the attention of the Committee.

37. Mr. GALVEZ (Guatemala) said that land reform was the most important problem confronting the under-developed countries and that it was essential for the

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Publications, Sales No. : 1951.I.B.2.

Committee to adopt a just and fair resolution on the matter. The low standard of living of great masses of the world population was largely due to deficient agrarian systems, and its improvement largely depended on land reform.

38. The economy of Guatemala was based on its agriculture. Before 1941 its agricultural situation had been dismal. Successive governments had been semi-dictatorial and had contributed to the backwardness of the population. Certain laws had been introduced but had not appreciably improved the lot of the population as a whole. In 1950, sixty per cent of the population had been employed in agriculture, living in miserable conditions and using the primitive plough and hoe as in ancient Egypt. Many families working the land had barely managed to subsist. Vestiges of the feudal system had survived.

39. Guatemala's main crops were coffee and bananas, most of which were exported. During the Second World War cotton and tobacco growing had been developed, also mainly for export. The living conditions of the cultivators were among the most unsatisfactory in the world; there was virtually no agricultural machinery and fertilizers were very scarce. Backward and uneconomical agricultural methods were employed. In the previous century legislation had been introduced to break up the large estates owned by influential families. Since then most of the cultivable lands had been concentrated in the hands of about three hundred families working in co-operation with foreign monopolies such as the United Fruit Company, which owned vast plantations and controlled the banana crop. Coffee prices had risen abroad, but the Guatemalan economy had not benefited thereby. Apart from its cultivated crops Guatemala also had salt and other mineral deposits.

40. Working conditions varied from one area to another. In certain parts there was communal working of the land. In the past some municipalities had been deprived of communal land and goods by the rapacity of powerful families and groups. The number of private owners of cultivable land was 65,000. Banana plantations covering 1,700,000 hectares belonged to a United States banana company which was the sole exporter of the crop. Furthermore, the railways, navigation companies and other transport facilities were controlled by a United States monopoly on which the smaller companies were also dependent.

41. After the introduction of the new regime, Guatemala had endeavoured to end the status of semi-slavery of most of the population. Some private companies now paid wages equivalent to 30 to 50 cents a day instead of the previous rate of 20 cents. In 1945, the Government had announced its intention to bring the system of land tenure into accordance with human dignity and to raise the standard of living. In 1947, the President had adopted urgent measures to better the lot of the peasants: the minimum wage of coffee cultivators had been increased and agricultural enterprises had been encouraged to pay higher wages. Legislation had also been enacted for the sale of agricultural produce. Property owned up to 1944 by Germans had been redistributed. Agricultural settlements were being established and a body had been set up to study mechanization. Arrangements were being made to lend machinery to farmers and to provide them with seeds.

42. Difficulties had been experienced in obtaining machinery from abroad, particularly from the United States, because of the foreign exchange situation. If the United States increased its exports of agricultural machinery the situation would be greatly improved. He therefore attached considerable importance to the United States representative's statement that the United States would do what it could to improve conditions in the under-developed countries (176th meeting).

43. Companies other than the large exporting enterprises were confronted with the difficult problem of transport. The Guatemalan Government had already taken some action in the matter—the way from the capital to the Pacific coast had been opened. Other progressive measures adopted by the Government were the establishment of agricultural research centres, of an institute for the study of advanced production methods and of agricultural credit institutions, among them a mortgage bank which rented credit to farmers and a co-operative agency which had already lent 3 million dollars.

44. The Guatemalan Government was pursuing a policy of full employment and agricultural mechanization under a capitalist system. Efforts were being made to remedy the malpractices causing the misery of the small farmers. The development of the country depended on land reform, on the abolition of landlord system, and on ensuring that the fruits of the soil reverted to those who tilled it. Such reforms required large-scale investment in agricultural equipment.

45. For those reasons his delegation supported the revised joint draft resolution and the Chilean and Indian amendments. The Polish draft resolution contained some valuable provisions, and he hoped that the two draft resolutions could be combined.

46. Mr. WÓULBROUN (Belgium) recalling the remark of the Polish representative that the agrarian problems were the same in all the under-developed countries (176th meeting) said the Belgian delegation, at the fifth session of the General Assembly and at the thirteenth session of the Economic and Social Council<sup>4</sup>, had already stated its position on agrarian structure and had praised the Secretary-General's report prepared in accordance with resolution 401 (V) of the General Assembly. It had appreciated the cogency of the conclusions contained in the report, particularly the recognition that no standard solution to the agrarian problem was possible, since conditions varied in the different under-developed countries.

47. The Polish representative had implied in his statement, even more than in his draft resolution, that no land reform which differed from the Eastern European model could possibly produce good results. Only when living standards and methods in Eastern Europe were observed could a proper comparison be possible, to support a judgment on whether the Eastern European system was in fact superior, which the Belgian representative doubted. In the meanwhile Belgium would continue its progressive, practical and constructive national efforts to improve the conditions of its farmers in the homeland and overseas.

48. The Belgian delegation would vote for the revised joint draft resolution. Belgium was prepared to co-operate in international action designed to improve the

<sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirteenth Session, 536th meeting.*

conditions of farmers, in particular through the Food and Agricultural Organization and the Technical Assistance Administration. He had no objections to the amendments submitted by Chile and India, and considered that the United Kingdom amendments improved the original amendments. As the Indian representative had indicated, certain points in the Polish draft resolution were difficult for many countries to accept, particularly paragraph 2 (c) and (f); but before adopting his final position on the matter he would await the observations of the other representatives on the Czechoslovak amendments (A/C.2/L.133). He added that his delegation appreciated the attempts at conciliation made with a view to drafting a text jointly with the representatives of the Eastern European countries.

49. Mr. KATZ-SUCHY (Poland) refrained from discussing the controversial issues raised with regard to the agricultural development of under-developed countries, since there was general agreement that one of the chief barriers to the development of those countries was the anachronistic structure of their agricultural systems. A resolution had already been adopted by the General Assembly calling for a study of agricultural conditions; and discussion both in the Assembly and in the Council had showed that his delegation had been fully justified in placing the subject on the agenda.

50. The Polish draft resolution was based on the findings of the Secretariat's report on land reform and, in his opinion, it met the desire for agricultural development expressed by the representatives of many under-developed countries. He could not agree with the United Kingdom representative that his delegation's proposal was dogmatic or one-sided. He had, on the contrary, proved that it was a general proposal to be applied according to the specific requirements of each under-developed country. His delegation had based it on the actual situation in under-developed countries emerging from the facts and figures supplied by the regional economic commissions, FAO and the Secretariat's report.

51. He referred those representatives who had suggested that paragraph 2 (c) of his delegation's draft resolution introduced a political note to paragraph 49 *et seq.* of that report. That passage, particularly the part dealing with the plantation system, fully confirmed that land appropriated by foreign companies was not used primarily for the benefit of the local population, and therefore justified the recommendation that it should be removed from those companies.

52. The criticism of paragraph 2 (f) of his delegation's draft resolution was similarly unjustified. Paragraph 2 (f) merely repeated in connexion with land reform what had frequently been stated earlier in discussions on the improvement of labour conditions in general. His delegation, however, was prepared to collaborate with the majority of the Committee in formulating proposals which, while fully supported by the Committee, would include those basic tenets which were in his opinion essential to give concrete effect to a programme of land reform. Should the Committee decide to establish a working group he would be glad to participate in it, particularly as he had no objections to the content of the revised joint draft resolution as amended, although he thought it would be improved by the inclusion of some of the more specific parts of his delegation's proposal. He expressed gratitude

to the Czechoslovak delegation for its amendment, which should help the Committee to formulate a joint draft.

53. He referred the Belgian representative to the statements made by the Polish representative in the Second Committee and at the Council's thirteenth session, which had shown clearly that his delegation did not consider that the land reform measures which had been accepted in Poland were the only ones applicable to under-developed countries. His delegation had never sought to imply that Poland had been the only country which had successfully carried through land reform; on the contrary, reference had been made to the achievements of many other countries, in particular Mexico.

54. He concluded by expressing his delegation's attitude of goodwill and desire to collaborate in producing a unanimously-acceptable draft resolution.

55. Mr. LUBIN (United States of America) referred to statements made by the Polish and Czechoslovak representatives (176th and 178th meetings) concerning the agricultural system in the continental United States and on one of its territorial islands. The Czechoslovak representative had said that 286,000 large farms in the United States accounted for 50 per cent of its agricultural land. Presumably that representative thereby implied that American agriculture was dominated by rich monopolistic landowners. Apparently he had not understood the concept of the "family-size" farm which had been fully explained to him at the session of the Council in Geneva. In the United States, the "family-size" farm was of the size necessary to maintain a family at a fair standard of living, and was operated by the family with the help of at most one or two "hired men". Obviously such farms varied greatly in acreage, depending on the crop cultivated, the climate, the water available, technical knowledge and social institutions. It was utterly impossible to compare the statistics of size for stock-raising farms with those for truck farms.

56. The Czechoslovak representative had also said that there was a tendency for the size of farms in the United States to increase and that the small farmers were being squeezed out. While there was admittedly a gradual trend towards a smaller number of larger farms, there was concurrently an increase in the proportion of farms operated by their owners, and there had been a rapid decline in the number of hired workers. The reasons for that trend gave cause for satisfaction: improvements in machinery and techniques had enabled the farmer to farm more land efficiently, and farm workers had tended to go into industry.

57. As the United States representative had indicated in his original speech (176th meeting), the United States was still faced with many agricultural problems. It did not, however, seek to hide or justify those problems but constantly worked to find solutions for them.

58. The Polish representative had attempted to create the impression that conditions in Puerto Rico were desperate. Puerto Rico was indeed one of the most densely-populated areas in the world, with less than half an acre of tillable land *per capita*. Nevertheless, in 1949, United Nations statisticians had estimated that living standards in Puerto Rico were higher than in the majority of other countries and higher than in all but three of the Eastern European countries.

59. Five hundred acres was the optimum size unit for the most efficient production of sugarcane. Accordingly the Government of Puerto Rico was purchasing land from holdings in excess of 500 acres and using it to establish farms in which the workers received shares of the proceeds in proportion to their contribution. The Government was also purchasing plots of land for landless agricultural workers and converting other land into family-size farms. It was striving, moreover, to bring about crop diversification and to encourage industry, so as to ease the pressure on the land.

60. His delegation accepted the joint Chilean-Indian amendment as amended by the United Kingdom, particularly with the interpretation of the second part of the Chilean-Indian amendment indicated by the Indian representative.

61. His delegation would be glad to co-operate in an informal working group, but he had understood that the Polish representative would support a resolution containing certain basic concepts of the Polish draft resolution. The United States delegation, which believed that governments should make credit facilities available in order to enable their subjects to help themselves, could not support any resolution which instructed governments to give machinery, fertilizers and seeds to their citizens. He therefore felt that a working group might have considerable difficulty in reaching an agreement.

62. Mr. GORK (Turkey) said that the allegations made by the Byelorussian SSR representative on the previous day (178th meeting) with regard to the position of the Turkish peasant were completely groundless. It was, moreover, ironical that the peasant's interests should be defended by a government which had treated its peasants in the harshest conceivable manner.

63. Mr. GURINOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) replied that the Turkish representative had apparently misunderstood his statement. He was willing to repeat it and to add new facts which would show that the position of the Turkish peasant was far from enviable.

64. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said that his delegation, like the Indian delegation, accepted the United Kingdom amendment to their joint amendments. There could be no doubt of the interpretation of their second amendment, dealing with recommendations to international credit institutions. His delegation shared the view expressed by the Indian representative that such aid was fundamental and should be given to all work connected with land reform.

65. The joint amendments, though based on Council resolution 294 (XI), had not originally included its full text, in order to avoid lengthening the draft resolution unduly. Since, however, the United Kingdom amendment had been accepted, in order to bring the text into complete accordance with that of the Council resolution, he wished to propose the insertion of the words "at rates of interest and" before the words "on terms of amortization" in the second joint amendment submitted by his delegation together with that of India (A/C.2/L.131).

66. Mr. NARIELWALA (India) supported that amendment.

67. Mr. KATZ-SUCHY (Poland) said that he would resist the temptation to debate the figures given by the United States representative, because the subject under discussion was land reform. He referred the United States representative, however, to the statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture for 1950 on the division of land in the "Black Belt", which did not give a rosy picture. The United States representative's interpretation of his delegation's draft resolution was not correct: The draft resolution left each government, in accordance with the concept of national sovereignty, to decide how the provisions of paragraphs 2 (c) and 2 (f) should be carried out. Moreover, only a few objections had been made to the form and none to the substance of those two paragraphs. He therefore believed that a working group based on the principle of compromise would serve a useful purpose.

68. The CHAIRMAN declared closed the general debate on land reform. He appealed earnestly to the sponsors of proposals and amendments on land reform to attempt to formulate an agreed joint draft resolution, and indicated that a working group for that purpose would meet that afternoon.

### (c) Technical assistance for the economic development of under-developed countries<sup>5</sup>

[Item 26]\*

69. Mr. LUBIN (United States of America), on a point of order, indicated that in the draft resolution on the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for the economic development of under-developed countries, to be included in the Rapporteur's draft report, a clause had accidentally been omitted in document A/C.2/L.108 expressing the Assembly's satisfaction with the Council's actions taken in resolution 400 (XIII). That omission meant that the Assembly would express no opinion on the participation of ITU and WMO in the Expanded Programme. He therefore proposed that in the first operative paragraph of that draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/L.108 (resolution II A), the words "the action taken by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 400 (XIII)" should be inserted after the words "Notes with satisfaction".

70. The CHAIRMAN asked if there were any objections to that proposal.

*The amendment was adopted.*

### Rapporteur's draft report

71. The CHAIRMAN said that the Rapporteur's draft report (A/C.2/L.129) had been circulated; it did not include sub-item (b) on land reform. No objections to this draft report had been raised and it would therefore be submitted to a plenary meeting of the General Assembly after he (the Rapporteur) had made some editing changes.

*It was so agreed.*

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

<sup>5</sup> Resumed from 160th meeting.