

77. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Observer for the Philippines) stressed the strictly humanitarian nature of the assistance to be provided to the Kampuchean people and expressed the hope that the members of the Council would support the request for the inclusion of the additional item in the agenda.

78. The PRESIDENT said that he did not detect sufficient opposition among the members of the Council to justify putting the matter to a vote. If there was no objection, he

would take it that the Council wished to revise the agenda of the current session of the Council by including an additional item entitled "Humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people" and to consider the item in plenary meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.

13th meeting

Friday, 25 April 1980, at 11.05 a.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.13

AGENDA ITEM 3

Special economic and disaster relief assistance (continued)* (A/35/99)

1. Mr. AKHUND (United Nations Co-ordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon) said that document A/35/99, dated 20 February, which was before the Council, contained the Secretary-General's first substantive report on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon since the adoption, on 14 December 1979, of General Assembly resolution 34/135 on the subject. He had great pleasure in introducing it on behalf of the Secretary-General. The report was self-explanatory and, although it was relatively brief and of an interim nature, members would find it to be self-contained. He would, of course, be glad to offer any clarifications which might be required and answer any questions members might wish to ask.

2. The report summarized the situation which currently prevailed in Lebanon as it affected reconstruction and development. Obviously, the pace and prospects were substantially affected by the unstable security conditions which had prevailed. It drew up a balance-sheet of the devastation caused by years of war, conflict and violence — tragic and senseless and, alas, not yet at an end — the lives lost or disrupted, the property and infrastructure destroyed, the breakdown of the administrative and social mechanisms which ensured the normal functioning of government, private institutions and ordinary day-to-day life. But the report also highlighted the reasons why the prospects for the future looked promising and why the international community should help the Government and people of Lebanon in the fulfilment of that promise. He would not go over that ground but would like, in his statement, to furnish the latest available supplementary information and bring to the Council's attention relevant developments since the Secretary-General's report has been written.

3. Members of the Council were, of course, aware of the abrupt deterioration in recent days of the security situation in the south of Lebanon, culminating in the cold-blooded murder, during the preceding week, of two members of the Irish battalion of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) — an act which had been described by

the President of the Security Council as a challenge to the mission of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. That mission covered not only the usual peace-keeping functions but, as the Secretary-General's report pointed out (A/35/99, para. 18), had extended to the provision of vital assistance in the carrying out of important projects of relief and reconstruction in the area and in the running of essential services. On arriving in Lebanon, six months before, to take up his duties, he had gone down to the UNIFIL area of operations at the invitation of the Force Commander, General Erskine, and had had the opportunity to visit some of the units. Among other places, he had visited the local hospital at Tibnin, the only one functioning for many miles around, and providing health services and treatment to the local population. It was being run entirely by the medical personnel of the Irish battalion, whose men had now been the victims of the most shocking and reprehensible act of violence. He was sure members of the Council would want to join him in extending the deepest condolences to the bereaved families and in expressing sympathy and admiration to the Force Commander for the dedicated work he and his men were performing in the south of Lebanon.

4. It had to be noted with dismay that elsewhere in Lebanon the general law-and-order situation left much to be desired and the cycle of violence was by no means at an end. Political assassinations and attempts on the lives of political leaders had not ceased. Shoot-outs between rival groups were not uncommon, sometimes taking a heavy toll in human lives. The only redeeming feature of the situation was that, despite the grave and tragic nature of some of the recent incidents, they had not led to the widespread violence and disorder which in past years would inevitably have followed. Furthermore, much of the random violence was not motivated by sectarian, political or ideological animosities, but occurred because of the inadequacy of the Government's law enforcement agencies. As and when those agencies were strengthened and were able fully to assume their normal responsibilities, the Government's ability to function properly, to curb crime and lawlessness and, of course, to undertake reconstruction and development in a major way, would be greatly enhanced. In that context, it was relevant to mention that units of the Arab Deterrent Force (ADF), stationed at Beirut and in the south, had been withdrawing from some of their positions there and redeployed elsewhere. Most of the evacuated positions had been taken over by units of the Lebanese Army. The

* Resumed from the 7th meeting.

movement had been carried out so far not altogether without incident but on the whole in an orderly way and after appropriate consultations among those concerned. If that pattern was followed wherever a similar transfer of responsibility was to take place, it would undoubtedly have a stabilizing influence on the security situation.

5. In February, the President of the Republic had taken the initiative of calling a series of meetings in which he and the Prime Minister had met members of the National Assembly, political and religious personalities from all sides and various leaders of opinion, in order to discuss with them the basis for a new national understanding. At the conclusion of those meetings the President had made a 14-point declaration, setting out the unanimous agreement which had been found to exist on fundamental principles, such as the country's sovereignty, independence and unity, the desire to preserve its parliamentary institutions and liberal economic system, Lebanon's place and role in the Arab world and in the world at large and its continued adherence to a non-aligned foreign policy.

6. The President's declaration had been widely welcomed as an essential and timely step towards a national consensus but was admittedly only the first step. Many sharp differences and conflicting interests would have to be reconciled before the agreement on broad principles could be given practical shape and it would not be realistic to minimize the difficulty of the task. The importance of the President's move lay in its having focused attention on the problems and the divergences which had divided the Lebanese people in recent years.

7. It was surely significant and encouraging that such a wide measure of agreement had been revealed in the first such attempt at a national dialogue after years of civil strife, during which the unity and very existence of the country had seemed to be in question.

8. On the social and economic side, the situation described in the Secretary-General's report (A/35/99) of a slow, if not steady, improvement in the various economic indicators had continued — for instance, the volume of exports, the volume of bank deposits and the collection of customs duties. The budget, while showing a large deficit again, would contain in 1980 a modest provision for social development projects. The rate of utilization of loans raised by the Government and listed in section V of the report was expected to pick up.

9. Recently, a fact-finding mission from the World Bank had visited Beirut and, after observing the situation on the spot and holding discussions with the authorities concerned, had apparently reached the conclusion that a start could be made in a significant way with the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. In that context, he drew attention to the reference made at the end of paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report (*ibid.*) to a proposed programme for 1980 consisting of projects which the Council for Development and Reconstruction hoped it could begin to implement in the coming 12 months, notwithstanding the prevailing security, political and administrative constraints. He was glad to inform members that the Council for Development and Reconstruction had now completed work on that programme and submitted it to the Government for consideration and approval. The programme would cover new projects in the fields of housing, health, education and vocational training, roads and railways, agriculture and social welfare as well as the acceleration of work on the restoration of the Beirut air and sea ports. The programme was designed, within the constraints imposed by prevailing conditions, to strike a balance among various sectors and regions. Thus, a substantial proportion of the expenditure

was on projects which were in southern Lebanon or would be of benefit to that region.

10. The estimated cost of the whole programme was 2 billion Lebanese pounds, or approximately \$600 million. Of that amount, \$400 million was expected to come from the Arab countries which had pledged assistance for Lebanon's reconstruction at the Tenth Arab Summit Conference, held at Tunis by the League of Arab States from 20 to 22 November 1979. The remaining amount would be provided by the Lebanese Government itself. Members would be pleased to know that Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar had already paid in their first contributions and that the other countries were expected to do so in due course. He was sure that members would join him in expressing appreciation to those countries.

11. However, as was stated in the Secretary-General's report (*ibid.*), the major obstacle to making a start with reconstruction was not the lack of finances but the inadequacy or absence of a variety of other factors which were necessary for drawing up and implementing specific projects as well as for proper long-term planning. Conscious of those short-comings, the Government of Lebanon had sought aid and assistance outside the country in order to strengthen its capability in that regard and had decided, in particular, to turn to the United Nations for that purpose. He read out the following portion of a letter on that subject which had been addressed to him on 15 April by the President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction:

"The cost of the current year's programme will amount to 2 billion Lebanese pounds and clearly cannot be met from the country's own present resources or from commercial loans from abroad. We are aware that the United Nations itself cannot furnish funds on the scale needed. However, we hope that the United Nations will be able to assist us in generating these funds and note that General Assembly resolution 33/146 of 20 December 1978 visualizes such a role for the joint co-ordinating committee¹ headed by you.

"The Government of Lebanon is most grateful for the assistance already received from the United Nations system and its various organizations: The contribution made by them, under the indicative planning figures of the United Nations Development Programme, though apparently small in volume, has been of key importance in most of the major projects undertaken or approved in the past few years. The reconstruction programme which is now proposed, and, still more so, the longer-term development which is envisaged, constitute in the words of the Secretary-General's report 'a vast undertaking and one which will be a continuing process'. We welcome the active United Nations role in this process envisaged in the above-cited General Assembly resolution and deeply appreciate the Secretary-General's renewed assurance in his report that the United Nations system stands ready to be of assistance to Lebanon in this endeavour. In specific terms, in addition to help in mobilizing the needed funds from external sources, we shall look to the United Nations system for assistance in (a) evaluating the current reconstruction programme as a whole and 'streamlining' the projects included in it and taking part in the continuous process of updating the 'Reconstruction Project' which the Council for Development and Reconstruction has prepared and which includes the projects to be implemented over the reconstruction period to enable Lebanon to resume its normal development; (b) assisting

¹ Committee on Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon.

the Council for Development and Reconstruction in exercising its responsibilities with regard to national planning."

12. In terms of machinery, that task might involve the setting up of a technical support group consisting of experts and short-term consultants in various disciplines who, working within the framework and mandate of General Assembly resolution 33/146, would advise and assist the Council for Development and Reconstruction in carrying out its planning and responsibility, in providing on-the-job training of counterpart personnel and in other areas.

13. The Government of Lebanon had indicated its readiness to finance part of the cost of the project. The scope of the proposal went beyond the normal country programming enterprise done by the United Nations Development Programme under its system of indicative planning figures. What the Government of Lebanon desired, as it prepared to launch its programme of reconstruction and development, was that the United Nations system should become, in the words of the President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction, "a full partner" in that vast and continuing enterprise.

14. The provision of such assistance by the United Nations would, of course, be entirely in keeping with the spirit and letter of General Assembly resolution 33/146, by which a United Nations joint co-ordinating committee had been established¹ at Beirut headed by a Co-ordinator—an office which he had been greatly honoured to accept. As the Secretary-General had pointed out in his report, implicit in the mandate of the co-ordinating committee was the provision of assistance to the Government of Lebanon in drawing up long-term projects as well as plans for relief and rehabilitation of an immediate nature, in strengthening the capacity of the Government of Lebanon to make and implement reconstruction and development plans and in raising the necessary funds from external sources and any other assistance, within the terms of the mandate, which the Government of Lebanon considered appropriate. He was glad to note that, under the terms of a draft resolution which would be submitted later under the same agenda item,² the Economic and Social Council would take note of and endorse in general terms the request of the Lebanese Government for assistance.

15. The crisis of Lebanon was far too complex to allow a simplistic diagnosis of its causes or facile optimism as to its solution. It could not be said that the crisis was over, but there was reason to hope that the worst of it might be. Situated at the geopolitical crossroads of a troubled region, Lebanon remained, as had been seen time and again, peculiarly vulnerable to the repercussions of external events. However, to the extent that the roots of the crisis lay in Lebanon's own history and past problems, the attempt to deal with them could also reawaken internal dissension. Fortunately, much that had been of value in Lebanon, such as its parliamentary system, its free press and its centres of learning and intellectual endeavour, had survived and continued to function. He had mentioned the declaration by the President of Lebanon on national consensus regarding fundamental principles and maintaining the country's basic institutions. He believed that a wide measure of agreement also existed to the effect that the reconstruction of Lebanon should not be a simple return to the past but should involve a comprehensive programme of restructuring and the orientation of the economy in new directions called for by economic and social developments within and outside the country.

16. The Lebanese Government's request to the United Nations to participate in the reconstruction of the country was a sign of its confidence in the Organization. It was a tribute as well as a challenge to the effectiveness and impartiality of the world body, which, he was sure, would not fail to respond in an adequate manner. The ultimate responsibility belonged, as it must, to Lebanon and the Lebanese people. Despite all that had happened, one could feel confident, knowing their qualities, that they would be equal to the task and, inspired by a dynamic vision of the future, would find the clarity of mind to recognize the country's problems and the united will to overcome them.

17. Mr. TUENI (Observer for Lebanon) said that Lebanon was in the unique position of a country still at war in which a vast effort at reconstruction was to be undertaken under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the Lebanese Government. As the United Nations Co-ordinator had pointed out, while the economic future of Lebanon was relatively promising, its state of security left much to be desired. It was to be hoped that the fact-finding mission which was to visit Lebanon would clarify and improve the economic situation and also the security situation, so that Lebanon could begin its recovery on a fresh basis. As the Lebanese Government had stated in the letter addressed to the Co-ordinator and read out by him, the reconstruction of Lebanon would not involve a return to the past; it was important to give a new direction to the economy and to society and to fix new development objectives.

18. Mr. ENOKI (Japan) said he was glad to note the progress accomplished in the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. The Japanese Government had faith in the renaissance of that country which should be worked out through a durable solution of the Middle East conflict; for that reason, it had contributed a sum of \$500,000 to the Government's reconstruction efforts.

19. Mr. HUTCHINSON (Ireland) thanked the Co-ordinator for the sympathy he had expressed on the occasion of the death of the soldiers from the Irish battalion of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

20. Mr. AL-ZUBI (Jordan) requested that the statement made by the United Nations Co-ordinator be reproduced *in extenso* in the summary record.

21. The PRESIDENT said that if there were no objections he would take it that the Council endorsed the request by the representative of Jordan that the statement by the United Nations Co-ordinator be reproduced *in extenso* in the summary record.

*It was so decided.*³

AGENDA ITEM 4

Regional cartographic conference (E/1980/8, E/1980/L.20)

22. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador), introducing draft resolution E/1980/L.20 on behalf of the sponsors, announced that they had been joined by the Bahamas, Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Spain and Trinidad and Tobago. He was glad to note that the Council was taking more interest in specific economic and technical problems rather than in political confrontation, which could take place in other bodies.

23. The Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, which had been held from 3 to 14 September 1979 at Mexico City, had revealed the

² Subsequently submitted as document E/1980/L.29.

³ See paras. 1 to 16 of the present record.

progress made by the countries of the Americas in the field of cartography and the good use they had made of international technical co-operation, of co-operation between developing countries and of the bilateral programmes instituted in the region. The increasingly widespread application of the latest techniques of cartography and hydrography and the standardization of geographical names provided many remarkable examples of international technical co-operation. The participants in the Conference had also discussed education and training and the exchange of specialists and publications.

24. The Second Regional Cartographic Conference had also discussed a number of questions which should be reconsidered and developed during the Third Conference. The Argentine and Chilean Governments had offered to act as host to the Conference and since Santiago, Chile, was already the venue of the meeting of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, the Latin American countries which had sponsored draft resolution E/1980/L.20 proposed that the Argentine Government's offer should be accepted. They had also wished to express their deep appreciation to the Institute whose important work should lead to a better understanding of the Latin American region and a clearer appreciation of its resources. Finally, in the draft resolution all international bodies, especially the United Nations, were invited to co-ordinate their cartographic activities in the region in order to avoid duplication and provide greater support to the development plans of the Latin American countries.

25. Mr. MUELLER (German Democratic Republic) noted that the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas had made an important contribution to the expansion of regional co-operation and of international co-operation in the fields of geodesy and cartography. For its part, the delegation of the German Democratic Republic had participated in the Conference and had presented, *inter alia*, information on efficient and economical methods of cartography.

26. The Conference had made it clear that the all-round development of the national economy of developing countries and of their infrastructure required the further expansion of national geodetic and cartographic services. Those services provided a good basis for planning the exploration and efficient use of natural resources as well as the development of national energy and transport systems. Consequently, the enlargement and improvement of those services should not be underestimated by the developing countries in their quest for economic progress and the solution of pressing development problems.

27. Mr. PALMEIRO (Brazil) announced that his delegation wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.20; it would therefore be sponsored by all the members of the Latin American group.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Humanitarian assistance programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa (continued)*
(E/1980/L.22, E/1980/L.23, E/1980/L.24, E/1980/L.25, E/1980/L.27)

28. The PRESIDENT announced that Lesotho had joined the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.22, entitled "Assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia".

29. Mr. SAMAAN (United Arab Emirates) introduced draft resolution E/1980/L.24, entitled "Situation of refugees in the Sudan", and explained that the following amendments should be made thereto: the text of paragraph 6 should be inserted between paragraphs 3 and 4, and former paragraphs 4 and 5 should be renumbered. In paragraph 7, the words "and voluntary agencies" should be inserted after the words "international organizations" and, in the French text of the paragraph, after the words "au Soudan", a comma should be added and the expression "et qu'ils assurent" replaced by "afin d'assurer". Finally, a new paragraph, which would be paragraph 8, would be added to read:

"Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to send an interagency mission to the Sudan to assess the needs and magnitude of assistance required for the financing of the programmes for relief and settlement of refugees."

30. The statements made before the Economic and Social Council by the representative of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the representative of the Sudan had fully brought out the gravity of the situation. In spite of the laudable efforts made by the Sudanese Government and the High Commissioner, the resources devoted to helping the refugees in the Sudan were clearly inadequate. For that reason, the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.24 requested an immediate increase in those resources and appealed to the members of the international community to participate in the International Conference on Refugees in the Sudan, to be held at Khartoum, at a high level in order to ensure its success. He hoped that draft resolution E/1980/L.24 would be adopted by consensus.

31. Mrs. MUTUKWA (Zambia) introduced draft resolution E/1980/L.25, entitled "Assistance to the refugees in Djibouti", on behalf of the sponsors. The following amendments should be made to the text: in the fourth preambular paragraph, the word "increasing" should be replaced by the words "substantially increased" and the phrase "which has now reached 15 per cent of the total population" should be deleted; after operative paragraph 3 a new paragraph 4 should be inserted to read: "Requests the Secretary-General to send an interagency United Nations mission to Djibouti to assess the needs of the refugees"; finally, in paragraph 5, former paragraph 4, the words "include in his annual" should be deleted and the word "first" should be replaced by the word "second", the rest of the paragraph remaining unchanged.

32. She stressed the moderate and humanitarian nature of the draft resolution, which should be supported unanimously by the members of the Council.

The meeting was suspended at 12.10 p.m. and resumed at 12.35 p.m.

33. Mr. KANE (Senegal) introduced on behalf of the sponsors draft resolution E/1980/L.23, entitled "Assistance to the refugees in Somalia". He announced that Democratic Kampuchea, Italy, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Singapore and Thailand had joined the sponsors. Taking into account the statement made by the Somali Minister responsible for refugees (see 11th meeting), he proposed that the preamble should begin with the following paragraph: "Having heard with deep concern the statement made by the Minister for Local Government of Somalia, who has special responsibility for refugees, on the grave refugee situation in Somalia".

34. The sponsors also proposed a new text for paragraph 6, to read: "Requests the Secretary-General to find ways and means to mobilize urgently humanitarian assistance for the refugees on the basis of the report of the United Nations interagency mission (E/1980/44)".

* Resumed from the 11th meeting.

35. Every day additional refugees were crossing the Somali frontier; their number now exceeded 650,000 and some estimates were double that figure. In the face of the gravity of a situation comparable with that in Viet Nam or Cambodia, the sponsors of draft resolution E/1980/L.23 were ready to accept a compromise in order to reach a consensus and avoid a vote which would split the Council. They felt nevertheless that the Council should pursue and intensify efforts in favour of the refugees at least in two directions, first, by requesting the dispatch of a new mission to report to the second regular session of the Council and, secondly and above all, by organizing a pledging conference for the refugees in Somalia, the modalities of which would be left to the Secretary-General.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (*concluded*)*

36. The PRESIDENT read out a letter which had been addressed to him by the Chairman of the Latin American

group informing him of the candidacy of Chile and Venezuela for the seat left vacant by Colombia on the Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He regretted that the designation of candidates had not been made earlier and recalled that the Working Group was concluding its work that same day. It therefore seemed pointless to appoint a representative to replace Colombia. He therefore suggested that the Council should decide that such an appointment was unnecessary without prejudice to Council decision 1978/10 of 3 May 1978 and without establishing a precedent.

It was so decided.⁴

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

* Resumed from the 5th meeting

⁴ See decision 1980/111.

14th meeting

Monday, 28 April 1980, at 11.05 a.m.

President: Mr. Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus).

E/1980/SR.14

AGENDA ITEM 4

Regional cartographic conference (*concluded*) (E/1980/8, E/1980/L.20, E/1980/L.28)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the statement of the programme budget implications of the adoption of draft resolution E/1980/L.20, submitted by the Secretary-General (E/1980/L.28) in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council. He suggested that if there were no objections the Council should adopt draft resolution E/1980/L.20 on the Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas.

The draft resolution was adopted without a vote (resolution 1980/14).

2. Mr. FIGUEROA (Argentina) expressed satisfaction at the adoption of the draft resolution and assured the Council that his Government, as host of the Third United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, would take all necessary steps to ensure its success.

3. Mr. SVIRIDOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had not opposed draft resolution E/1980/L.20 on the understanding that the Conference would have no additional financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations and that it would be held in Argentina.

4. The PRESIDENT declared that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 4.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Special economic and disaster relief assistance (*continued*) (A/35/99)

5. Mr. RAMZY (Observer for Egypt) said that his delegation attached great importance to the future of Lebanon and the well-being of its people, who had fallen victim to war and civil strife which had taken a heavy toll on the economic and social infrastructure of the country. Israel's violation of Lebanese sovereignty was a major factor contributing to that situation. However, in spite of flagrant military action by Israel and other aggravating circumstances, the Government of Lebanon was undertaking great efforts to alleviate its economic and social problems. The Government's measures for reconstruction and development deserved the encouragement and support of the world community. Egypt shared the view of the Government of Lebanon that the process of reconstruction and development must not await a political settlement; rather, that process should contribute to such a settlement and the ultimate return of tranquillity and order to Lebanon. The role of the United Nations in that regard was essential; his delegation had been pleased to hear that the Committee on Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon had steadfastly proceeded to discharge its role, and it looked forward to even more intense activity on the part of the Committee as the process of reconstruction and development gained momentum.