

Regarding the demographic aspects of economic development, the General Assembly, with 27 countries abstaining, approved Resolution 1838 (XVII) recommending that the Economic and Social Council intensify studies and research on the inter-relations of population growth and economic and social development, and endorsing the Population Commission's view that the United Nations should encourage and assist governments to study the demographic aspects of development problems. Canada voted in favour of the resolution. Before adopting the resolution, the Assembly rejected a phrase contained in the resolution approved by the Second Committee, which called for the provision of United Nations technical assistance to countries requesting it for national projects and programmes on population problems.

The relation of land reform and the conservation of natural resources to economic development was recognized in two resolutions that were approved unanimously. The first [1828 (XVII)] recommended that member states co-operate with the Secretary-General, the Food and Agriculture Organization and other United Nations Specialized Agencies in collecting data for the fourth United Nations report on land reform. The second [1831 (XVII)] drew the attention of member states to the need for action to preserve, restore, enrich, and make rational use of their natural resources and increasing productivity.

The danger of inflation in countries in the process of economic development was stressed in a resolution, adopted unanimously, which requested the Secretary-General to prepare a study of the relation between economic development and inflation [1830 (XVII)].

Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament

An issue to which the Committee attached great importance was that of the economic and social consequences of disarmament. A United Nations Consultative Group had prepared a report on this subject, which recognized that all problems of transition connected with disarmament could be met by appropriate national and international measures. The Committee and later the General Assembly unanimously adopted a declaration [Resolution 1837 (XVII)], sponsored jointly by the Soviet Union and the United States, which endorsed this conclusion. It also endorsed the Economic and Social Council's request that member states conduct any studies that might be required for developing needed information, plans and policies for making necessary economic and social adjustments in the event of disarmament, bearing in mind the imperative needs of developing countries. Finally, it asked the developing countries to prepare soundly-conceived projects and well-integrated development plans of national and regional character, the implementation of which might be accelerated through use of the resources released by disarmament.