

of what is now being accomplished by international and national economic assistance programmes could not fail to be of assistance in future United Nations discussions of the subject.

There is a second major advantage which could follow from this resolution. Members are doubtless aware of the extent to which the United Nations has been of assistance to governments in arranging economic aid programmes in South and South-East Asia. It is possible that a survey of the kind proposed in this resolution would provide information on the basis of which the United Nations could, as requested, perform a useful role in assisting the preparation of economic aid programmes by its members. Members of this committee will know how impossible it is at the present time to obtain useful general statistics upon which economic aid programming can proceed. There have been some general surveys of international economic aid by private bodies for specific purposes. There has never yet been a United Nations survey of economic aid programmes for United Nations purposes. I believe, as stated in the preamble of resolution L295, that "the collection and circulation by the United Nations of information concerning economic aid programmes would further co-ordination between these various programmes".

A third result of the survey proposed in this resolution would be a body of information, not now available to the United Nations, which would indicate gaps in the present programmes of economic assistance and sectors in which there could be a greater or less emphasis. Such information would be most useful to the United Nations in considering what further programmes it could undertake and how best to allocate the resources now being made available by member governments for United Nations economic aid programmes.

Mr. Chairman, this is a modest proposal. The future of the United Nations does not depend on it. On the other hand, the resolution does suggest a course of action based on confidence in the United Nations and on the role which the United Nations can play in promoting international economic development. As others have said, including senior leaders in Asia, it is desirable for the United Nations to play a more active role in promoting economic development. Therefore, the question which the resolution poses in this: "Are the members of the United Nations prepared in the UN to take note of economic aid programmes generally?" I trust that the answer is yes.

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