

In considering the resolutions before us, we are, however, called on to decide whether it would be useful to give further detailed examination to the proposal of the convening of a world economic conference. In this connection, I am sure, all delegates would agree with our distinguished Vice-Chairman when he expressed a need for international action which would unite all economic sectors. Would a world economic conference help to achieve this desirable goal? Would it be likely to achieve concrete results of lasting practical importance? My Delegation believes that the answer to both these questions is in the negative.

When the Canadian Delegation spoke at ECOSOC as short a time ago as last July, we referred to improvements in the international political scene. It appeared then that closer economic relations might be developing between the so-called centrally planned economies and the economies of the West. It is in present circumstances, however, likely that the early convening of a world economic conference would do more harm than good in promoting international trade co-operation. I admit, Mr. Chairman, that this is a matter of judgment, but I think my judgment is borne out by recent events.

Secondly, my Delegation does not believe that an international economic conference could take useful, practical measures which cannot now be taken through the United Nations and the existing international bodies created for the purpose of promoting world trade. It seems to our Delegation that to call an international economic conference to discuss all the issues which have been indicated as a possible agenda would be to conflict directly with the useful work which is now proceeding under the auspices of the United Nations and other bodies. The result might well be less satisfactory on all fronts than would be possible by a more constructive interest in the opportunities now available.

My Delegation will, therefore, vote in favour of the seven-power draft Resolution L.301 concerning the development of international economic co-operation and the expansion of world trade. Had Resolution L.282 concerning a world economic conference been put to a vote, we would have voted against it. We, therefore, find it necessary also to oppose the Resolution L.319 submitted by the Delegation of Poland and Yugoslavia. Since we do not believe that a world economic conference would serve a useful purpose, and we believe also that it would conflict with the work which is being carried out by the United Nations and other bodies, we do not believe it useful to support a recommendation from this Assembly that the Economic and Social Council consider the proposal further.

I would like to conclude my statement by referring to the need for a practical approach to this subject. Such an approach has in the past benefited those countries who are willing to co-operate in the promotion of international economic co-operation, and will do so in the future. It is not new bodies we need -- it is solutions.

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