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AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PEACEFUL USES OF THE SEA-BED AND
THE OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION

Third Session

ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE TWELFTH TO FIFTEENTH MEETINGS

Held at the Copacabana Palace Hotel, Rio de Janeiro,
from 19 to 23 August 1968

Chairman:

Mr. DENORME

Belgium

Rapporteur:

Mr. PROHASKA

Austria

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE TWELFTH MEETING

Held on Monday, 19 August 1968, at 3.15 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. DENORME

Belgium

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STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN thanked the Government of Brazil on behalf of all members of the Working Group for the warm hospitality extended to all those concerned with the third session of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Working Group would recall that the conclusions embodied in its progress report (A/AC.135/L.1, Annex 1) covered seven major points: the existence of substantial mineral resources beyond the continental shelf (para. 10), the current state of technology (para. 17), the technological capacity for exploiting marine resources and the commercial viability of such operations (para. 29), possible economic implications of such exploitation (para. 38), the possible effects of such exploitation on traditional marine activities and the need to prevent all forms of pollution (para. 48), possible régimes of exploitation (para. 61, (c) and (d)), and the advantages and disadvantages of an international régime (para. 61, (e) to (1)).

The Ad Hoc Committee's main function at the current session was to prepare a study which would include an indication regarding practical means to promote international co-operation in the exploration, conservation and use of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, in accordance with operative paragraph 2 (c) of General Assembly resolution 2340 (XXII). The Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee had requested the Working Groups to include in their reports any suggestions they wished to submit on that subject. The activities of the Economic and Technical Working Group at the current session might therefore consist of (a) a study of the prospects of co-operation on a world-wide basis; (b) an exchange of views on forms of regional co-operation; and (c) consideration of the role of the United Nations in the development of international co-operation.

In that connexion, the Group had before it the Secretary-General's proposals for an expanded programme of international co-operation (E/4487, paras. 252-277), a resolution on the same subject adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its forty-fifth session, and the United States proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration (see A/AC.135/SR.11). Forms of regional co-operation which had to be borne in mind included that adopted by the intergovernmental Committee for Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in Asian Offshore Areas, referred to in the Secretary-General's report on marine science and technology (E/4487, Annex XI, para. 16) and that described in the memorandum from the

(The Chairman)

Government of Italy (A/AC.135/1/Add.9). Finally, the Group would have to consider the proposals on the role of the United Nations contained in the Secretary-General's report and in the resolution of the Economic and Social Council to which he had referred.

Mr. MLADEK (Czechoslovakia) proposed that the Chairman's statement should be reproduced in full as a document of the Working Group.

Mr. LEVY (Secretary of the Working Group) drew the attention of the Group to the financial implications of the proposal.

The proposal was adopted.^{1/}

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/AC.135/WG.2/R.5)

The agenda was adopted.

PROSPECTS FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLOITATION OF THE RESOURCES OF THE OCEAN FLOOR (A/AC.135/WG.2/R.5 and R.6; E/4487)

Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America) said that previous submissions by various delegations clearly indicated how little was still known of the potential wealth of the sea-bed and the ocean floor. Only a fraction of the continental shelf had been studied and knowledge of the extent and distribution of mineral resources in the deeper parts of the continental margin and the deep ocean floor was still largely speculative.

An understanding of the nature and distribution of the properties and resources of the sea floor obviously required the most basic kind of exploration, involving mapping, geological and geophysical surveys and other scientific studies. That was an undertaking which lent itself particularly well to international co-operation both world-wide and regional. Moreover, there was a pressing need for some co-ordinated pilot projects to test the value of current assumptions concerning marine mineral deposits. Such programmes as the International Geophysical Year, the International Indian Ocean Expedition and the Co-operative Study of the Kuroshio current were examples of successful scientific co-operative projects.

^{1/} The full text of the statement has been issued as document A/AC.135/WG.2/R.7.

(Mr. McKelvey, United States)

One of their most notable features was the contribution made by non-governmental scientific organizations and that feature had been incorporated in the proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration which his delegation had presented to the Ad Hoc Committee at its second session (A/AC.135/SR.11).

As members of the Group were aware, sea-bed studies formed an integral part of that proposal. In fact, his delegation was convinced that the decade would be a practical step towards achieving the international co-operation in the exploration, conservation and use of the ocean floor referred to in General Assembly resolution 2340 (XXII). Moreover, it was substantially in accordance with the Secretary-General's proposals for an expanded programme of ocean exploration. For all those reasons, his delegation hoped that it would prove possible to develop a common approach in support of such a long-range co-operative scientific programme.

He attached the greatest importance to the conservation of the sea-bed and believed it was essential that the international community should act to preserve certain virgin marine areas for general scientific purposes, without, of course, prejudicing the freedom of air and sea navigation. Accordingly, international arrangements for the preservation of characteristic marine features, such as a deep ocean trench, a group of sea-mounts or uninhabited coral atolls in an unmodified state, would be a valuable demonstration of the international character of the oceans and the sea-bed and of the potential for co-operation in the marine sciences.

His delegation had proposed such an undertaking in the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.135/SR.11) and had offered to make certain areas available for such studies. It had also proposed that other nearby areas of particular interest should become international marine preserves. His delegation hoped that those proposals would be endorsed by the Group and that they would become the subject of resolutions to be submitted to the General Assembly.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in its resolution IV-16 had recognized the potential usefulness of an international underwater laboratory in developing technologies for operations on the deep ocean floor (A/AC.135/17, annex I). The United States had already conducted a great deal of research on a related matter, the development of man's capability to operate in the ocean depths, and had invited a number of Governments to send experts to participate in such projects as Sealab III, which included experiments in deep saturation endurance diving. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee could provide a valuable incentive for similar co-operative programmes of ocean floor exploration.

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Mr. DEJAMMET (France) said that he would confine himself largely to the subject of international co-operation in the exploration of the sea-bed and the ocean floor with particular reference to the United States proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration. There were three major decisions to be made in that connexion: the choice of fields of co-operation, the means to be employed and the role of IOC and of the international organizations.

Possible fields of co-operation might include the exploration of biological resources (improvement of fishing techniques, determination of most rewarding species, pilot plants), the operational aspects of ocean floor exploration (mapping, standardized equipment, personnel training, pilot projects), the study of ocean phenomena (sea dynamics, interaction in the marine environment, meteorology, pollution) and assistance to developing countries, with special emphasis on the training of researchers, the establishment of scientific institutions and the provision of adequate equipment.

Co-ordination was the most rational way of undertaking such exploration. All existing programmes, whether national, bilateral, or multilateral, must, of course, be taken into account and the emphasis should be laid on the exchange and dissemination of scientific information.

While a number of the specialized agencies, such as WMO, IMCO and FAO, clearly had an important contribution to make to any international co-operative programme, his delegation believed that the nature and experience of IOC eminently qualified it for the work of co-ordinating the scientific activities of the decade and preparing over-all plans for it. To assign that work to IOC did not, however, imply that its terms of reference should be broadened or that it should be given sole responsibility for executing the programmes of the decade.

Mr. ODA (Japan) expressed his Government's desire to continue to co-operate actively in the international efforts to develop and exploit the resources of the ocean floor. A regional training centre for offshore geographical prospecting had been established in Japan in 1967, and Japan was co-operating with ECAFE in carrying out aeromagnetic surveys off the Philippine coast and refraction seismic surveys off the western coast of Taiwan.

The Japanese Government fully supported the Secretary-General's proposal that the United Nations should be given adequate responsibility for systematic collection and diffusion of information regarding economic marine mineral deposits, techniques

(Mr. Oda, Japan)

appropriate for their development as well as for resolving related juridical, general administrative and political issues (E/4487, para. 277). However, while he welcomed the idea of expanding the IOC programme, he felt that it should be restricted to scientific matters and should not include international co-operation in the development and exploitation of the resources of the ocean floor, which should fall within the purview of the United Nations itself. His delegation felt that point 1 (a) in the Chairman's suggested programme of work (A/AC.135/WG.2/R.6) should be discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee as a whole, rather than by the Working Group.

The CHAIRMAN felt that the Secretary-General's proposal for an expanded programme of international co-operation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science (E/4487, paras. 253-267) were relevant to the Working Group's mandate. Moreover, in suggesting how the Group's work might be organized, he had sought to stress the value of the report proposing an international decade of ocean exploration prepared by the United States National Council on Marine Research and Engineering Development. That report recommended, inter alia, the exploration of the ocean floor, investigation of its geography, geology, mineral content and energy resources, and assistance to developing countries. While those matters were not directly within the Working Group's terms of reference, they did involve certain economic and technological factors which merited the Group's attention.

Mr. FLEMMING (United Kingdom) agreed that, although science was a prerequisite for economic exploitation, scientific matters themselves should be discussed in the plenary Committee. He welcomed the Chairman's suggestion that the Working Group should consider prospects for co-operation at the international and regional levels as well as the role of the United Nations in promoting international co-operation.

Global services could include satellite navigation systems, weather and state-of-the-sea prediction systems, world data services, the development of equipment and techniques, the standardization of instruments and of exploration and sampling techniques, and the sharing of the data collected. However, the scope for co-operation at the global level was broadest in scientific matters.

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(Mr. Flemming, United Kingdom)

Greater opportunities for economic and commercial co-operation existed at the regional level. Groups of countries could share costs, planned cruises, technical expertise and data processing equipment in order to accelerate progress. Similarly, they could work together on local navigation nets, weather services, geological and geophysical mapping and on the delineation and proving of deposits, and they could share the capital costs of exploitation, production and refining equipment.

The Ad Hoc Committee had a valuable role to play in furthering long-range planning and developing a stable régime for the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. Existing agencies such as WMO, IMCO and IAEA, could be strengthened and were best equipped to regulate present and future régimes. ICC's role in the proposed international decade for ocean exploration should centre primarily on scientific matters.

Mr. KROYER (Iceland) expressed his Government's support of the Secretary-General's proposal for an expanded programme of international co-operation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science and of the United States proposal concerning an international decade of ocean exploration. The latter would require further study, particularly with regard to its financial implications. Those proposals were complementary and merited thorough consideration in view of the pressing need for further research and more advanced technology. Iceland's bilateral and multilateral co-operation with scientists of other countries had convinced his Government of the need for more extensive international co-operation.

His delegation also welcomed the Italian proposal for the establishment of an ad hoc body for each internal sea (A/AC.135/1/Add.9, para. 4) to supplement the co-operative efforts recommended in the two afore-mentioned proposals.

Mr. BETTINI (Italy) said that international co-operation was essential for the world-wide exploration of the ocean floor and the exploitation of its potential resources. The United States proposal would promote such co-operation.

A distinction should be made between the sea-bed and the vast deep oceans. The immense difficulties involved in investigating the latter necessitated the co-operation of the entire international community. The study of the sea-bed of internal seas was primarily the concern of the States bordering such seas, and

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(Mr. Bettini, Italy)

regional co-operation was thus to share common experience, data collected and to reduce costs. His Government's memorandum, which the representative of Iceland had just endorsed, contained further details. Investigation of the problems involved in exploring internal seas would increase understanding of the ocean floor and strengthen ties between countries. The success of such investigation required both inter-governmental and private commercial co-operation.

His delegation planned to submit a memorandum relating to the legal aspects of the exploration of internal seas.^{2/}

Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) emphasized the importance of expanding investigation of the mineral resources of the sea-bed, the ocean floor and the contiguous seas, and of determining their geographical distribution and composition on the basis of broad international co-operation. That was the major conclusion to be drawn from the Secretary-General's excellent report on marine science and technology, which was based on the extensive work carried out by the ad hoc Unit on Marine Science and Technology and on the experience of States and the relevant international organizations.

The report had rightly acknowledged the major role which an expanded IOC could play in guiding such international co-operation. IOC had already adopted specific proposals designed to implement General Assembly resolutions 2172 (XXI) and 2340 (XXII) and had endorsed the idea of an international decade of ocean exploration as a complement to its own anticipated expansion. It had also called on its members to suggest projects for inclusion in its expanded long-range programme for the study of the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor.

The Working Group should urge the Ad Hoc Committee to request the General Assembly to call upon the States Members of the United Nations to co-operate in the activities of IOC.

The CHAIRMAN said that that suggestion would be taken into consideration in the light of the discussions in the plenary Committee.

Mr. OSEGUEDA (El Salvador) agreed with the French representative that little was yet known about the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor. The international decade of ocean exploration, proposed by the United States, would undoubtedly prove to be helpful in penetrating the mystery of the world's oceans and should cover all the subjects mentioned by the French representative.

^{2/} Subsequently issued as document A/AC.135/1/Add.10.

(Mr. Osegueda, El Salvador)

El Salvador, whose territorial sea, under article 7 of its Constitution, extended 200 miles out from the low-water mark, favoured all initiatives, consistent with its sovereignty, aimed at discovering the resources of the sea; it would therefore support such initiatives to the full, provided that they were undertaken for peaceful purposes exclusively and were designed to benefit all States, whether large or small.

Mr. ARORA (India) hoped that the Rapporteur would emphasize in his report the co-ordinating role which the United Nations should play in the systematic collection and dissemination of the information mentioned in paragraph 277 of the Secretary-General's report (E/4487). He requested clarification of paragraph 250 of that report; he would have thought that it was precisely because the co-ordinating function was not being performed at present that there was a need for a more precise definition of functions. He hoped that paragraph 260 did not imply that, by taking note of the report, delegations would commit their Governments to contribute more to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (ICC). He, for his part, could not commit the Indian Government to increased expenditure for that purpose without further discussion of the problems involved. He failed to understand what was meant by the words "draw the attention of international funding organizations to the need for assisting developing countries to participate more fully in such work" in the last sentence of paragraph 271 of that report. He also felt that the kind of advisory services provided by ECAFE in prospecting for mineral resources in Asian offshore areas should be expanded and developed.

From the document prepared by the United States National Council on Marine Resources concerning the international decade of ocean exploration, he noted that the United States Government was engaged in consultations with other countries and with international organizations concerning the scope of that project and the practical arrangements necessary for putting it into effect. He wondered whether the United States representative could inform the Working Group of the progress of the consultations; what the financial outlay on the programme might be expected to be; and how the projects undertaken in that connexion would be organized, implemented and supervised. Finally, he wondered whether the decade would embrace or exclude bilateral co-operation.

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(Mr. Arora, India)

In the light of the experience of past sessions, he urged the Chairman to pay due attention to the importance of leaving sufficient time for the adoption of the final text of the report.

Mr. de BREUVERY (Representative of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) informed the Indian representative that the English text of the third sentence in paragraph 250 of the Secretary-General's report (E/4487) should read: "Moreover, the Governments through the intermediary of well-established international organizations could conclude international agreements, which, of course, also have legal and even political aspects." In the preface to his remarks on existing mechanisms for the promotion and co-ordination of marine activities at the international level, the Secretary-General on the advice of his panel of experts had drawn a clear distinction between measures aiming at strengthening the action of inter-governmental organizations already active in co-ordination in certain special economic and technical fields, and measures which would make adequate provision for co-ordination in strictly scientific fields.

Mr. ZEGERS (Chile) pointed out that the Working Group could not enlarge its terms of reference beyond those laid down for it by the General Assembly. He emphasized that nations and international organizations engaged in the scientific exploration of the sea-bed and the ocean floor should not thereby acquire rights of any kind concerning the exploitation of the resources discovered through such exploration.

Mr. ANDRASSY (Yugoslavia) said that his Government was willing to take part in any programme of international co-operation. In the spirit of co-operation, Yugoslavia welcomed the initiatives already taken and was prepared to take part in both regional and international programmes, in which it felt the United Nations should play a paramount role.

Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America), replying to the Indian representative, said that plans for the international decade of ocean exploration were still under study both by his Government and by other Governments and that consultations on the subject were still in progress. Generally speaking, the reaction to the proposed programme had been favourable but the plans for its organization and implementation had not yet been cast in final form. As he had

(Mr. McKelvey, United States)

already indicated in his previous statement, co-operation should be both bilateral and multilateral. The work of the organizations actually carrying out the work of the decade would be not so much supervised as co-ordinated. On the matter of financing, his Government would expect the participating countries to finance their own research programmes.

Mr. ODA (Japan) said that, although his delegation was not convinced that the scientific aspect of the matter properly came within the Working Group's frame of reference, he would make some preliminary comments on the subject, because other delegations had done so. Japan, which was a member of IOC and of its Consultative Council, and co-operated in some of the international expeditions co-ordinated by IOC, gave general support to the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the expanded programme of international co-operation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science (E/4487). While his delegation was aware of the important functions which IOC would undertake with respect to co-ordinating scientific investigation of the marine environment, it felt that the IOC's functions should not be broadened beyond those laid down for it by UNESCO. In other words, its programme could be expanded but not its mandate. He also wished to draw attention to a discrepancy between the terms of reference of IOC and those of the Ad Hoc Committee; the former's purview, unlike the latter's, was not limited to the areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to the ocean floor.

Mr. GAUCI (Malta) observed that the United States proposal for an international decade of oceanographic exploration, though highly useful, was only one part of the whole problem. Greater progress had been made in exploring the oceans in the past ten years than ever before. For example, in 1953 it had been possible to exploit resources lying only up to 25 miles offshore at a maximum depth of 230 metres; now such resources could be exploited to a distance of 27 miles at a maximum depth of 6,000 metres. While the output of offshore oil had been 28,000 gallons a day in 1953, it was now 1,250,000 gallons a day. Exploratory drilling, now limited to a water depth of 640 feet, was expected to be extended to a depth of 1,300 feet by the end of 1968. By 1980, the end of that decade, exploration could be conducted in any area of the world, and would probably be concentrated on the sea-bed because it was there that most new sources were likely

(Mr. Gauci, Malta)

to be found. Much of that exploration would be conducted independently of United Nations activities, including that decade. It was therefore important that the work done in connexion with the decade should not prejudice any action that might be taken by the General Assembly and its competent committees, which should be able to take decisions while the decade was in progress. His delegation felt that IOC should be responsible for co-ordinating the scientific work done in connexion with the decade, initially at least, when it would be important to ensure that projected activities were considered by the international community as a whole, and that the General Assembly and its competent committees should be able to lay down guiding principles and to serve as a focal point for the over-all direction and control of such activities. The decade would probably add to existing knowledge, which was already considerable.

Mr. KIKHIA (Libya) said that, as his delegation had stated at the Committee's second session, the work done on the exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed and its resources should be administered and controlled by the United Nations and its competent organs. He was aware that such arrangements were feasible only on the basis of a detailed study of their practical and political implications. At the present stage, therefore, the Ad Hoc Committee should merely enunciate the principles that should guide such future arrangements, leaving the detailed discussion of the international machinery and its structure and competence to a later stage. The recommendation for the strengthening of existing machinery made by the Secretary-General in his report (E/4487) deserved broad support by Member States.

The CHAIRMAN thought that the Working Group would authorize him to present a summary of the matters discussed, indicating the measure of agreement reached by the Group on them, with the understanding that the text of the summary would be reviewed in the light of subsequent comments and statements by delegations.

It was so agreed.

The CHAIRMAN read out the following summary:

"1. Exploration and scientific research constitute a prerequisite for the development of marine mineral research. The importance of further international collaboration in those fields was strongly felt. For that reason, it was generally accepted that the two parallel proposals - that

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(The Chairman)

submitted by the Secretary-General for an expanded long-term programme of international collaboration in the scientific field and the United States proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration - deserved support.

"2. The following observations were made on that issue:

"(a) It was suggested that the study of the proposals in question fell within the competence of the Ad Hoc Committee itself. It was accepted, however, that the proposals, though essentially of a scientific nature, did contain matters which were within the Working Group's terms of reference;

"(b) The Group was of the opinion that the task of co-ordinating a programme of long-term co-operation could be entrusted to ICC, which had already undertaken activities of that kind. Nevertheless, since ICC was essentially a scientific body, some delegations considered that it should not be given a monopoly of the work of organizing the international decade;

"(c) It was also pointed out that, even without the beneficial results expected from the programmes of the international decade, the exploitation of marine mineral resources would advance rapidly, thus increasing present knowledge.

"3. Several delegations emphasized the importance of regional efforts and expressed the hope that activities such as those undertaken by the inter-governmental Committee for offshore prospecting, sponsored by ECAFE (E/4487, Annex XI, para. 16), would increase. Attention was drawn to the fact that one specific form of regional co-operation, that involving States which had coasts on inland or marginal seas, provided a useful pattern for co-operation on an ocean-wide scale, in addition to its intrinsic value. There was broad agreement on the usefulness of further study of that subject.

"4. Many delegations stressed the appropriateness of the co-ordinating role to be assigned to the United Nations in the development and exploitation of marine mineral resources. The Working Group expressed general support for the proposal made by the Secretary-General in that connexion (E/4487, para. 277)."

Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed his satisfaction with the Chairman's summary of the discussion as a whole, but felt there was some inconsistency between the first point, whereby the Working Group

(Mr. Kort, USSR)

welcomed and supported the Secretary-General's proposal regarding the expanded long-term programme of international co-operation in the field of science and the United States proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration, and the second point, which stated that the Working Group generally found that the co-ordination of the programme of long-term co-operation should be the responsibility of IOC. He was also not sure to which of the Secretary-General's proposals the Chairman's fourth point referred.

The CHAIRMAN said that the USSR representative's observations would be taken into account in the reformulation of his summation in the Rapporteur's report. His fourth point had been based primarily on paragraph 277.

Mr. MAURTUA (Peru) questioned the value of presenting such summaries. The practice did not accurately reflect the feelings of all the members, as it did not take minority views into account.

The CHAIRMAN explained that the summary was purely provisional and naturally only reflected the views of members who had addressed the Working Group at the current meeting. The Rapporteur would amend the summary in the final report in the light of future interventions.

Mr. HAQUE (Pakistan) objected to the use of the word "exploitation" in paragraph 2 (c) of the Chairman's summary; such exploitation would no doubt benefit private interests, but would not necessarily add to the general knowledge of marine resources.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 20 August 1968, at 3.30 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. DENORME

Belgium

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PROSPECTS FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLOITATION OF THE RESOURCES OF THE OCEAN FLOOR (A/AC.135/WG.2/R.5 and R.6; E/4487) (concluded)

The CHAIRMAN drew the Working Group's attention to a provisional draft of the part of its report dealing with the item under consideration which the Rapporteur had prepared to expedite the adoption of the final report. On behalf of the Group, he extended a welcome to the Chairman of ICC, who was attending the meeting.

Mr. ABDEL HAMID (United Arab Republic), referring to paragraph 1 (a) of the note by the Chairman (A/AC.135/WG.2/R.6), asked whether the Economic and Social Council had already considered the Secretary-General's proposal for an expanded programme of international co-operation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science. (E/4487, paras. 235-267) and the United States proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration (A/AC.135/SR.11, pp. 5-6) and, if so, what action it had taken on them. With regard to paragraph 1 (b) of that document, relating to regional co-operation, he pointed out that the arrangements made for one region were not necessarily applicable to others and that the economic, political and other realities of the region concerned must be taken into account in each case. While he was not minimizing the importance of such arrangements, some problems were better understood by the countries of the region themselves and their views were of paramount importance in devising workable arrangements and must be taken into account if the arrangements were to be successful. He wished the report to reflect that view.

Mr. TILAKARATNA (Ceylon) hoped that the assertions made regarding the paucity of existing information on the sea-bed and ocean floor were motivated exclusively by geological considerations. In that connexion, he commended the Maltese representative for having placed the matter in its proper perspective. One of the conclusions reached at the Committee's second session had been that substantial resources existed on the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. Paragraphs 247 and 275 to 277 of the Secretary-General's report (E/4487) made it clear that much more co-operation would be necessary before any significant progress could be made. Part III of that report provided valuable guidelines for maximizing international co-operation in marine science and technology.

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(Mr. Tilakaratna, Ceylon)

The report also made it clear that the mandate given at present to the United Nations and intergovernmental bodies was not sufficiently precise. Moreover, since the developing countries faced special problems even in developing the resources of their own continental shelves, the subject required much further consideration.

He therefore welcomed the Belgian proposal for the establishment of a standing committee which should be, not a technical body of experts, but a fully representative body like the Ad Hoc Committee itself which should co-ordinate, supervise and direct all activities concerned with the exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed and the ocean floor. The United States proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration was, no doubt, a very constructive proposal but nevertheless it appeared to run parallel to that of setting up a standing committee, to deal with all sea-bed and ocean floor matters. In his view the activities envisaged in the decade proposal should be linked in some way, to the standing committee, which would have over-all authority.

He recognized the excellent work done by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) as an expert body, but he felt an international body dealing exclusively with all aspects of maritime subjects was very desirable.

Mr. KEISO (Australia) said that his delegation did not feel that the Working Group's terms of reference should be construed too rigidly. In any case, General Assembly resolution 2340 (XX) referred in paragraph 2 (c) to exploration as well as conservation and use.

The Working Group itself had recognized, in paragraph 7 of its progress report (A/AC.135/L.1, annex I), that knowledge of potential marine mineral resources was scant and that present knowledge was more or less satisfactory for only a small part of the continental shelf. That meant that knowledge was very meagre indeed for areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction which it was the Committee's responsibility to consider. There could therefore be no question that there was a need for further exploration and research, fully supported by the international community.

International agencies had, of course, undertaken some activities in that general context and Australia had participated in one such activity, the International Indian Ocean Expedition. Accordingly, his delegation commended the

(Mr. Kelso, Australia)

Secretary-General's proposals for an expanded programme of international co-operation and the United States proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration. In his view, the adoption of the excellent United States suggestion would not only focus attention on the potential of the oceans but would also encourage Governments and international agencies to take an active part in promoting co-operation in all matters concerning the sea-bed and the ocean floor and the superjacent waters. At the same time, he stressed that much thought would have to be given to co-ordination and planning in order to avoid uncertainty about administrative mandates, which could lead to duplication, overlapping and waste.

While the expansion of IOC's programme of work to implement the Secretary-General's recommendations and the United States proposal should not require any basic change in its character, it was necessary to ensure that IOC preserved its essentially scientific status and did not become involved in areas of activity that were, properly speaking, the concern of other United Nations bodies. His delegation had always consistently advocated a narrower rather than a wider interpretation of the identity and role of United Nations bodies. It wished to stress, however, that broadening the base of IOC should not be interpreted as broadening its field of competence. It was particularly concerned to ensure effective co-operation between IOC and FAO and IMCO.

Mr. MIADEK (Czechoslovakia) said that, while his country lacked the facilities for conducting research in the sea-bed and ocean floor, it agreed with the maritime countries that knowledge of the resources of the sea-bed was insufficient and that further research was necessary. In his view, it was desirable to limit State activities concerning the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction to research and exploration for the next few years and to leave the exploitation of the resources thus discovered for later discussion. International co-operation in exploiting the resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor would require the working out of difficult co-operative arrangements and the establishment of a special international body, which presupposed international agreement on such issues as delimitation of this area. Research, on the other hand, was governed by the principle of freedom for all States. A highly acceptable international body like IOC should co-ordinate research activities and compile the data gathered from the explorations conducted

(Mr. Mladek, Czechoslovakia)

by individual States and make them available to all so that the land-locked countries would also be able to take part in research and exploratory activities. In that connexion it might be useful if the rights and obligations of States and international organs were defined in an international treaty.

Mr. BETTINI (Italy) said that, as the debates at the second session had shown, the exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor presupposed an advanced technology and considerable financial resources. He therefore wondered whether the most appropriate means of furthering such exploitation might not be to encourage private efforts by individuals in various countries, who could pool their technology, knowledge and capital. That in turn presupposed the establishment of an international company - perhaps by the International Bank or some other appropriate international organization - which could be set up under international law and have no particular nationality or links with any particular national legislation. He was aware of the difficulties and problems implicit in his suggestion but hoped that the Working Group would give it consideration as a means of precluding privileged situations and of ensuring that all countries, whether large or small, developed or developing could share both de jure and de facto in the exploitation of the sea-bed.

Mr. DIACONESCU (Romania) said that, if exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor was to be just and economically effective, the technical means of exploitation must belong to the peoples; the concerned efforts of all States would be necessary to achieve that goal. His delegation, which favoured economic, technical, scientific and other co-operation between States based on the principle of equal rights and mutual advantage, would support any initiative leading to the development of international co-operation in the Committee's field of competence. His delegation therefore attached great importance to the Secretary-General's proposal for an expanded programme of international co-operation for the reasons given in paragraph 253 of his report.

His delegation also supported the United States proposal which would encourage the efforts of States to explore and exploit the resources of the sea-bed and increase co-operation between the competent specialized agencies and

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(Mr. Diaconescu, Romania)

inter-governmental organizations. Such national and international research would be the very paragon of scientific co-operation. His delegation believed that IOC should play the leading role in co-ordinating such activities and that regional co-operation could be of the utmost importance in promoting international co-operation.

Mr. HAQUE (Pakistan) considered the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report (E/4487) for international co-operation in the exploration and development of marine resources, especially his proposal in paragraph 277, to be highly useful. However, it was not clear from paragraph 256 why or how the base of IOC was to be broadened. He was inclined to agree with the Japanese and Australian representatives that the functions of IOC should be expanded, but not its statute, at present. He could not at the present stage commit his Government with regard to the financial implications of broadening the base of IOC.

The United States proposal for an international decade of international exploration should neither prejudice nor prejudge whatever action the Ad Hoc Committee, the General Assembly or the future possible standing committee might take to promote the peaceful uses of the sea-bed and the ocean floor. In view of the United States representative's reply to a question from the Indian representative at the previous meeting, he pointed out that the developing countries would have great difficulty in financing their own research programmes without outside assistance and their inability to take part in the programme for that reason hardly augured well for the success of the decade. The proposal therefore required further discussion.

His delegation favoured regional co-operation wherever feasible.

Mr. BENITES (Ecuador) said that, even though the agenda item under discussion entitled the Committee to discuss the exploitation of the resources of the ocean floor, he agreed with the Czechoslovak representative that such a discussion was somewhat premature as much further exploration would be necessary before international co-operation in the exploitation of the resources discovered became possible. The agenda item itself seemed to recognize that point of view by referring to "prospects for ... exploitation ...", which suggested a phased

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(Mr. Benites, Ecuador)

approach. In his view, the most important phase was international co-operation designed to amass knowledge of existing resources and the technical and economic possibilities of their future exploitation. The Secretary-General's report (E/4487), which had been submitted to another organ, the Economic and Social Council, went far beyond the Working Group's terms of reference.

The international decade of ocean exploration proposed by the United States would make a substantial contribution to the exploration of the still unknown ocean depths. His delegation considered that essentially scientific undertaking to be of very great importance and fully supported it. At the same time it felt that the part of that programme dealing with the living resources of the sea was also outside the Working Group's mandate. Moreover, the proposal was not yet in final form and might give rise to jurisdictional problems; it might therefore be better studied in the plenary committee.

His delegation attached great importance to the possibilities of regional co-operation, advocated by the Italian representative, which represented a new approach to the question of internal seas and land-locked countries.

One of the essential principles that must be stressed in the report was that scientific exploration did not confer any rights with regard to the future economic exploitation of the resources discovered through such exploration.

Mr. GRANELLI (Argentina) said that the fragmentary nature of man's knowledge of the oceans, which covered 71 per cent of the earth's surface, was reason enough for intensifying scientific and technological investigation of the marine environment. His delegation therefore fully supported the Secretary-General's proposals for an expanded programme of international co-operation in marine science and welcomed the United States proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration. It was gratifying to learn that the Economic and Social Council had recently urged the General Assembly to endorse both programmes and existing programmes of IOC concerned with the same subject.

In fact, IOC, through its Consultative Council, and such scientific bodies as the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and its Scientific Committee on Ocean Research (SCOR) should become involved in the planning and evaluation of any international programme of ocean research. The advice of those bodies should be sought before any decision was made on enlarging the role of IOC.

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(Mr. Granelli, Argentina)

His delegation had already expressed some reservations about the proposal contained in paragraph 277 of document E/4487 and associated itself with the statement of the delegation of Ecuador that the fundamental principles of any international programme should be that participation in ocean exploration conferred no exploitation rights on any participant and that national jurisdiction over the continental shelf should be respected. For similar reasons, his delegation would have to reserve its position on the United States proposal that certain areas should be designated marine preserves until full details of the proposal became available: the sea, after all, was a continuum and the reservation of unduly large areas for such purposes might well restrict normal maritime activities.

His country, like others in the Southern Hemisphere, had experienced great difficulties with regard to position-fixing for vessels and platforms engaged in ocean research and therefore believed that special emphasis should be given in the expanded programme to the kind of activities described in paragraph 125 of the Secretary-General's report. His Government also considered that the example of the ECAFE sponsored inter-governmental prospecting programme (E/4487, annex XI, paras. 16-19) was one which could usefully be copied in Latin America and it was prepared to participate in any such programme and to contribute to a joint regional equipment fund for ocean research. The tremendous advances in the study of the South Atlantic that had been made during the International Geophysical Year were an indication of the benefits all countries could expect to derive from intensified study of the marine environment and Argentina was prepared to participate fully in any international efforts to that end.

Mr. ARORA (India) said that the preliminary draft of the Group's report submitted by the Rapporteur was very useful. The paragraph relating to the international decade of ocean exploration might, however, be expanded to include the reservations and comments expressed by a number of delegations. The order of the passages relating to international co-operation might be altered so as to emphasize the importance which many delegations attached to the role of the United Nations in promoting such co-operation, and the sentence expressing that view might be reworded to read:

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(Mr. Arora, India)

"Many delegations felt that the United Nations should play an essential role in promoting, co-ordinating and supervising the exploration and exploitation of marine mineral resources."

In view of the Group's lengthy discussions on the respective roles of the United Nations and IOC in the proposed expanded programme it might be useful to include in the report a more comprehensive description of the proposal in paragraph 256 of the Secretary-General's report. Moreover, his delegation endorsed the view that the broadening of the base of IOC, referred to in that proposal, implied only that the Commission's programme should be strengthened and not that its competence should be extended.

Mr. CROSBY (Canada) observed that the agenda item the Working Group was considering well expressed the chief purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee's work: to ensure better utilization of the resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor for the benefit of mankind, an undertaking which necessarily involved international co-operation. As implied throughout the Secretary-General's report (E/4487), to improve man's scientific and technical knowledge was a prerequisite for the development and exploitation of submerged mineral resources; it was only when the marine environment was better understood that the nature and distribution of marine mineral deposits could be assessed and economic methods of exploiting them developed.

His delegation accordingly welcomed the Secretary-General's report and the proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration. It believed that the Working Group was in a position to take a practical step towards implementing those proposals by suggesting to the Ad Hoc Committee that it should indicate to the General Assembly the desirability of requesting IOC to receive proposals for scientific programmes from States and institutions and to study and make practical suggestions in respect of those projects. The knowledge acquired through those projects should be made available rapidly to all concerned and would, of course, supplement that acquired through other bilateral and multilateral programmes dealing with the same subject. The Assembly should also be advised that IOC would have to be strengthened if it were to undertake such additional responsibilities.

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Mr. YANKOV (Bulgaria) said that the Working Group had rightly concluded at its second session that the only way of meeting the challenge of man's penetration into the new world of the deep ocean was to promote international and co-operative efforts in marine exploration. Paragraph 253 of the Secretary-General's report contained an excellent summary of the principal objectives of such co-operative efforts and his delegation endorsed the conclusion implicit in that paragraph that activities in the initial stages of the expanded programme should be predominantly scientific. Indeed, existing scientific knowledge of the marine environment and marine resources was so fragmentary that intensive international co-operation during the investigation phase was essential to lay the groundwork for subsequent development and exploitation of those resources.

His delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the choice of institutional machinery to co-ordinate, supervise and implement the expanded programme and, in particular, his recommendation that an existing body, IOC, should undertake that work. It agreed that IOC, appropriately strengthened, would fulfil the administrative, technical and financial requirements for such an institution and believed that no new international bodies should be established until the capacities of those already in operation had been fully utilized.

His delegation, representing a State whose coasts were on an internal sea governed by an international régime, fully supported the section of the Rapporteur's working paper relating to special forms of regional co-operation. It believed, in fact, that all forms of regional and international co-operation - multilateral, bilateral, inter-institutional and extra-institutional - in marine research were to be encouraged.

In conclusion he supported the United States proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration. The proposal should form an integral and valuable part of the expanded programme proposed by the Secretary-General.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia) said that his delegation wholeheartedly supported the proposed expanded programme; it was only through active international collaboration in marine activities that the enormous gaps in man's scientific knowledge of the oceans could be filled. IOC, duly strengthened and amplified, was the appropriate body to undertake the detailed planning and administration of the expanded programme. Nevertheless, in view of the acute need for permanent

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(Mr. Eastman, Liberia)

arrangements for pooling knowledge and finance, the suggestion that a standing committee should be set up within the United Nations to deal with marine science and operations had great merit.

The proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration was a valuable one and should be incorporated in the expanded programme.

In conclusion, he said that Liberia, like most of the developing countries, believed that it should have the opportunity to share in the resources of the sea, directly or indirectly, and to participate in their development, whenever possible.

Mr. FLEMMING (United Kingdom) said that although his delegation agreed that scientific exploration of the resources of the sea was a prerequisite for their development and exploitation, the scientific aspects of ocean exploration were not, in fact, the Working Group's central concern. Its primary function was to consider practical economic and technical measures for promoting international co-operation in the exploration, conservation and use of the sea-bed and the ocean floor with the ultimate aim of utilizing marine resources for the benefit of mankind. A number of speakers had already pointed out that scientific exploration, unless carried to the stage of exploitation, was an activity which yielded no immediate economic returns and he supported their contention that exploitation was, indeed, one of the principal concerns of the Group and should be given appropriate prominence in its report.

His delegation agreed that the problems of scientific ocean exploration were of a global nature and required international action for their solution. It considered, however, that the exploitation of marine resources could be carried out most effectively on a regional basis.

Mr. ZEGERS (Chile), referring to paragraph 6 of the Rapporteur's provisional draft, stated that, although his delegation favoured the concept of an international decade of ocean exploration, the Working Group could endorse it only within the context of its terms of reference. The report to the Ad Hoc Committee should stress the fact that oceanographic research did not automatically confer the right to exploit the resources discovered and that oceanographic research should be widely publicized.

Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the order of paragraphs 4 and 5 should be reversed, because the Secretary-General's proposal had preceded that of the United States. He failed to see why some delegations did not consider the two proposals to be complementary which they certainly were. Paragraph 6 should reflect the comments made about the decade more fully.

The Indian representative's amendment to paragraph 11 conflicted with his delegation's view that IOC should have primary responsibility for organizing and developing international co-operation in scientific oceanographic research, notably for the international decade of ocean exploration.

He agreed with the representatives of Czechoslovakia, Ecuador and Bulgaria that the report should stress the importance of international co-operation at the present stage of research into the use of marine mineral resources for the benefit of all mankind.

Paragraph 9 rightly reflected the Italian representative's comments on the need for increased regional co-operation to complement international efforts in scientific research and the development of new techniques. However, that representative's suggestion regarding the establishment of an international company was utopian at the present stage.

The Working Group should make firm proposals regarding international co-operation, going beyond the purely scientific aspects of the matter, and the Ad Hoc Committee's mandate should be extended to permit more thorough study of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2340 (XXII).

Mr. ODA (Japan) stated that a distinction must be drawn between international co-operation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science and international co-operation regarding development and exploitation of marine mineral resources. IOC was competent to deal solely with the former and the United Nations should be responsible for the latter. The relevant paragraphs of document E/4487 should be mentioned in the Working Group's report to avoid any confusion concerning the functions of the United Nations and IOC. The terms of reference of the Working Group and the Ad Hoc Committee were confined to the deep ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction; the concept of an international decade of ocean exploration, which his Delegation warmly appreciated, was much broader in scope.

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Mr. TILAKARATNA (Ceylon) felt that the question of an international decade of ocean exploration should be discussed during the consideration of practical means to promote international co-operation in the exploration, conservation and use of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, and of their resources.

Mr. FELLENS (Belgium) noted with satisfaction that certain speakers had mentioned with favour the suggestion of Belgium that the Ad Hoc Committee should be transformed into a standing committee.

Mr. MAURTUA (Peru) said that the specialized agencies could undertake certain studies in the field under discussion, provided that the subject matter fell strictly within their purviews and that there were no political implications.

True international co-operation required the free exchange of scientific knowledge and experience, recognition of the individuality of each State and careful co-ordination between global efforts and national activities directed towards similar ends. Nothing should be done at the international level that would prejudice the interests of individual States. Technical assistance should be granted willingly, for all countries were working towards a common objective. His delegation endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals and the idea of an international decade of ocean exploration.

Mr. de BREUVERY (Representative of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs), replying to the United Arab Republic representative's question regarding action taken by the Economic and Social Council on the matter under discussion, pointed out that the Council's Co-ordination Committee had recently adopted two draft resolutions relevant to the Working Group's programme. The first, on resources of the sea, requested the Secretary-General "to follow closely new developments which may occur in fields of marine mineral resources exploration, evaluation and exploitation beyond the continental shelf and the possible implications thereof, and to report when appropriate to the Economic and Social Council" (E/4584, draft resolution II, operative paragraph 4). The other, dealing with a long-range programme for the exploration of the sea, invited the General Assembly "to endorse the concept of a co-ordinated long-term programme of oceanographic research designed to increase, in the interests of world economic

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(Mr. de Breuvery)

development, the resources available to all people of the world, taking also into account such initiatives as the proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration and several international programmes already considered, approved and adopted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for implementation, in certain cases, in co-operation with other specialized agencies" (E/4584, draft resolution III, operative paragraph 4).

Mr. ABDEL-HAMID (United Arab Republic) felt that the Working Group's report should use the wording of the Economic and Social Council resolution in referring to the proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration. That proposal should be considered as one element in an expanded programme of international co-operation and not as a separate parallel project.

He hoped that the Secretariat would be able to prepare a brief paper summarizing recent Economic and Social Council action relevant to the subject under discussion.^{1/}

Mr. ARORA (India) agreed that the United States proposal should be incorporated in the expanded programme of international co-operation.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.

^{1/} An information note (A/AC.135/WG.2/R.8) was subsequently issued.

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING

Held on Thursday, 22 August 1968, at 3.25 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. DENORME

Belgium

later,

Mr. ARORA

India

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE (A/AC.135/L.1, annex I, A/AC.135/R.1/Add.1)

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Working Group should discuss the section of its draft report relating to the proceedings of the current session (A/AC.135/WG.2/R.1/Add.1) paragraph by paragraph.

It was so agreed.

Paragraph 1

Mr. GRANELLI (Argentina) said that he assumed that the "other authoritative sources" referred to in the paragraph included the memorandum submitted by the Italian Government (A/AC.135/L.1/Add.9) and the United States proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration.

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, confirmed that that was so.

Paragraph 1 was adopted.

Paragraph 2

Mr. FLEMMING (United Kingdom) observed that it had frequently been pointed out that the Group's terms of reference did not include the superjacent waters of the areas of the sea-bed and the ocean floor which were the subject of resolution 2340 (XXII). The phrase "marine mineral resources" did, however, cover minerals in solution in sea-water and he proposed that it should be replaced, in paragraph 2 and elsewhere in the document, by the words "mineral resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof".

Mr. HOSANNAH (Brazil) and Mr. CROSBY (Canada) supported the proposal.

It was so agreed.

Mr. GAUCI (Malta) proposed that the first sentence of the paragraph should be deleted, since it appeared in the earlier part of the report (A/AC.135/L.1, annex I).

After a discussion, in which Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America), Mr. CROSBY (Canada), Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. GAUCI (Malta) participated, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the words "As previously mentioned in the report" and an appropriate documentary reference should be added at the beginning of the paragraph.

It was so agreed.

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Mr. HAQUE (Pakistan) proposed that the words "for the benefit of all mankind" should be added at the end of the paragraph.

It was so agreed.

Paragraph 2, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 3 was adopted.

Paragraph 4

Mr. ODA (Japan) proposed that the words "through science" should be added after the phrase "... a better understanding of the marine environment", in order to retain the wording used in operative paragraph 3 of resolution 2172 (XXI).

It was so agreed.

Mr. GAUCI (Malta) proposed that the final sentence of the paragraph should be amended to read "and diffusion of scientific and related knowledge in this field".

It was so agreed.

Paragraph 4, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 5

Mr. ARORA (India) said that his delegation was somewhat uncertain about the meaning of the phrase "... the economic implications of it are obvious" at the end of the paragraph and wished to reserve its position pending further clarification by the United States delegation.

Mr. HAQUE (Pakistan) associated himself with that observation.

Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America) said that his delegation had spoken in some detail at the twelfth meeting of the Group about the potential economic benefits to be derived from increased geological, geophysical and other scientific knowledge of the ocean floor and had pointed out that the acquisition of such knowledge would pave the way for successful exploitation of the marine mineral resources with which the Ad Hoc Committee was concerned. He accordingly proposed that the phrase under discussion should be replaced by the words "... would have great potential economic benefits".

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Mr. GAUCI (Malta) said that the United States amendment had removed his doubts about the meaning of the final sentence. He proposed that the words "for all countries" should be added at the end of the paragraph.

Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) doubted whether the resultant text would be an entirely accurate statement of the facts. It was true that scientific exploration was a prerequisite for exploitation of ocean floor resources, but meaningful economic returns could not be expected until after exploitation was well under way. It might therefore be preferable to omit the reference to economic benefits by deleting the part of the sentence following the word "proposal".

Mr. GAUCI (Malta) proposed that, in order to obviate any doubts about the accuracy of the final phrase of the paragraph, it should be replaced by the words "... would offer great potential benefits for all countries".

It was so agreed.

Paragraph 5, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 6

Mr. de BREUVERY (Representative of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that he had attended the forty-fifth session of the Economic and Social Council and could assure the members of the Group that the Council had, indeed, favourably considered the proposal for the international decade. As the foot-note to the paragraph indicated, the Council had, in operative paragraph 4 of resolution 1381 (XLV), invited the General Assembly to endorse the concept of a long-term programme of ocean exploration, including such initiatives as the proposal for the decade, and had noted, in the sixth preambular paragraph of that resolution, IOC's endorsement of the same concept.

Mr. ABDEL-HAMID (United Arab Republic) proposed that the full text of the relevant passage of the Council's resolution should be incorporated in the paragraph. To do so would, moreover, expedite the Group's consideration of the text.

Mr. YANKOV (Bulgaria) agreed.

Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the proposal. He further proposed that the phrase referring to IOC's consideration of the decade should be replaced by the text of the IOC decision endorsing the concept of the long-term programme, as reproduced in Council resolution 1381 (XIV).

Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America) agreed that the texts mentioned by the two preceding speakers should be quoted in the Group's report but that it would be sufficient to reproduce them in foot-notes.

He endorsed the proposals of the United Arab Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and further proposed that the last sentence of paragraph 6 should be retained.

Mr. KELSO (Australia) supported the proposals of the United Arab Republic and United States representatives. Paragraph 6, as redrafted, reflected the Working Group's discussions of the subject more fully.

Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the last sentence could be more concisely drafted to read: "The Working Group expressed its appreciation for this proposal and generally supported the concept of expanded international co-operation in the study of the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor."

Mr. ARORA (India) felt that the reservations expressed regarding paragraph 6 should be included in the final text of the paragraph, although paragraph 7 also reflected some of those reservations.

Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America) felt that it was inappropriate to conclude a paragraph which expressed the Working Group's support of a proposal with reservations: the reservations could be recorded at the beginning of the next paragraph.

Mr. ARORA (India) proposed that the last sentence of paragraph 6 should read: "While some delegations raised some questions and expressed some reservations, the Working Group expressed its appreciation for this proposal and generally supported it."

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Working Group should suspend consideration of paragraph 6 until it had completed its discussion of the rest of the document.

It was so decided.

Paragraph 7

Mr. ARORA (India) felt that it was inappropriate to use the phrase "On recommending the Decade", since, as paragraph 6 indicated, the Working Group had only expressed general support for it.

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, pointed out that the word "recommending" was to be construed in the light of the preceding sentence, and that it referred to those delegations which had endorsed the concept of the decade.

Mr. DANIELI (United Republic of Tanzania) felt that the fourth sentence should be redrafted to make it clear that the entire Working Group considered that scientific investigation could not create any rights of exploitation.

Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the word "exclusive" should be inserted between the words "any" and "rights" in the fourth sentence.

Mr. GAUCI (Malta) proposed that the word "commending" should be substituted for "recommending" in the fourth sentence.

Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) objected to that change, since all delegations considered the Secretary-General's proposal for an expanded programme of international co-operation and the concept of an international decade of ocean exploration to be complementary. The original version of the sentence should be retained, with the insertion of the word "exclusive", as he had just suggested.

Mr. ZEGERS (Chile) remarked that many delegations had stressed that scientific investigation did not create any rights of exploitation. Therefore, if the words "other delegations" were used in the third sentence, the word "exclusive" would be inappropriate in the fourth sentence; however, if the words "the Working Group" were used instead of "they" in the fourth sentence then "exclusive" could be retained.

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Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America) suggested that, in order to accommodate the proposals made so far, the third sentence should begin with the phrase "Other delegations, while commending the decade, pointed out...." The fourth sentence could then be replaced by a separate paragraph beginning: "The Working Group recognized that scientific investigation should not create any exclusive rights of exploitation on the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction".

Mr. MAURTUA (Peru) objected to the inclusion of the word "exclusive", as it was essential to convey the idea that scientific investigation did not confer rights of exploitation of any kind whatsoever.

Mr. YANKOV (Bulgaria) was gratified that two important points were reflected in the paragraph: the Working Group's approach to the decade and the statement of principle on rights of exploitation. The use of the words "any rights" was inappropriate, as it would exclude countries participating in the investigation from subsequent exploitation of the resources discovered: the point was that joint research should benefit all countries and that exploratory research should not confer exclusive rights of exploitation.

Mr. FELLENS (Belgium), supported by Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America), proposed that the phrase should read "should not automatically confer rights of exploitation".

Mr. KELSO (Australia) proposed that the sentence should read: "It was pointed out, on the other hand, that scientific investigation does not preclude rights of exploitation."

Mr. KIKHIA (Libya) felt that the fourth sentence should remain unchanged.

The CHAIRMAN said that the sentence should either reflect the view shared by the entire Working Group, in which case the word "exclusive" should be included, or present the view of some delegations, in which case that word should be omitted.

Mr. ZEGERS (Chile) recalled that his delegation's endorsement of the concept of the decade was based on the assumption that scientific investigation, when carried out on behalf of the international community, did not confer any rights of exploitation whatsoever.

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Mr. GUERREIRO (Brazil) proposed that a further paragraph should be added to the effect that the proposed expanded programme and the decade of ocean exploration should include practical plans for enhancing the research capabilities of the developing countries.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Working Group should suspend consideration of paragraph 7 until it had completed its discussion of the rest of the document.

It was so decided.

Paragraph 8

In reply to a question from Rear-Admiral LANGERAAR (Chairman, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission), Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America) said that the difference between the words "development" and "exploitation", as used in the paragraph, was that the former referred to those preliminary activities such as digging wells, in the case of oil, or building access tunnels, in the case of mines - that were necessary to open up a deposit for subsequent exploitation.

Mr. KIKHIA (Libya) pointed out that the words "should be restricted to its scientific scope and not be broadened so as to cover international co-operation in the development and exploitation of marine mineral resources" seemed inconsistent with the view expressed by the Chairman of IOC at the Ad Hoc Committee's 15th meeting to the effect that the Commission's help need not necessarily be limited to scientific advice as it had for seven years been dealing with organizational and other problems. He proposed that the words "which is to promote research with a view to learning more about the nature and resources of the oceans through the concerted action of its members" should be deleted because they seemed to place a restrictive interpretation on the functions of IOC.

It was so decided.

Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the whole paragraph was superfluous and should be deleted. The report already stressed in several passages that IOC would be responsible for scientific research and the IOC document (A/AC.135/17) made it clear that the Commission felt that, in order to ensure the most effective possible co-ordination in the future of the exploration and exploitation of the resources underlying the open seas, it would

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have to deal with many organizational problems. Moreover, the IOC programme described in that document indicated that IOC regarded direct exploitation of the mineral resources discovered as a matter falling outside its competence.

Mr. DANIELI (United Republic of Tanzania) also supported the deletion of paragraph 3, because it was premature to define the work of IOC.

Mr. ARORA (India) felt that the paragraph served a specific purpose and should be retained, especially as it was an accurate reflection of the view expressed by a number of delegations during the debate. He presumed that the words "marine mineral resources" would be changed, as the United Kingdom representative had suggested at the outset of the meeting.

Rear-Admiral LANGERAAR (Chairman, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) favoured the retention of paragraph 3. While IOC would never attempt to expand its sphere of activities to include the development or exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor, the insertion of the words "and organizational" between the words "scientific" and "scope" would reflect the fact that IOC's work was not limited to scientific matters. Indeed, if it was, it would have no need for the assistance of the two scientific advisory bodies appointed by IMCO and FAO.

Mr. HAQUE (Pakistan) supported the change recommended by the Chairman of IOC.

Mr. DEJAMMET (France) proposed that the words "It was felt that" should be replaced by the phrase "Some delegations felt that".

Mr. YANKOV (Bulgaria) supported the French amendment because his delegation, for one, was not authorized to comment on the structure, functions or competence of other inter-governmental institutions.

Mr. ODA (Japan) and Mr. KELSO (Australia) supported the French and IOC amendments.

The amendments were adopted.

Paragraph 3, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 9

Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered the second sentence illogical: it was inconceivable that any exploitation would be undertaken in the absence of scientific knowledge, or that exploitation would contribute to research rather than the other way around. The sentence could well be deleted. He proposed that the words "It was also noted" should be replaced by the phrase "Some delegations noted", because the view expressed was not shared by all.

It was so decided.

Mr. GAUCI (Malta) observed that paragraph 9 was an accurate reflection of the view expressed by his delegation except for the words "at a rapid pace". What he had actually said was that exploitation would progress independently of the activities in question. He therefore proposed the deletion of those words.

It was so decided.

Mr. FLEMMING (United Kingdom), said that, however paradoxical the second sentence might seem, it was nevertheless factually true. The work done by engineers and technicians often provided a foundation for subsequent scientific knowledge and continuing engineering and commercial advances did in fact further science. That was an important point which should be retained.

Mr. KIKHIA (Libya) proposed that the words "of exploiting resources beyond the continental shelf" should be changed to read "of exploiting the mineral resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction".

Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America) supported the Libyan amendment.

The Libyan amendment was adopted.

Mr. HAQUE (Pakistan) proposed that the words "for the benefit of all mankind" should be inserted at the end of the paragraph and wherever the word "exploitation" occurred elsewhere in the text.

It was so decided.

Paragraph 9, as amended, was adopted.

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Paragraph 10

Mr. FLEMMING (United Kingdom) said that paragraph 10, which reflected the view expressed by his delegation, failed to draw the distinction he had attempted to make, namely, that, since scientific problems - such as mapping and the magnetic and gravitational fields of the world's oceans - were global in their occurrence, plans to solve them must be global too; on the other hand, economic resources would be found concentrated in specific areas and the work of exploiting them would therefore devolve upon individual countries or small groups of countries having interests in the area. He therefore proposed that the paragraph should be replaced by the following text:

"The requirement for more information about the nature of the sea and the sea floor is universal and therefore there is manifest need for greater co-operation in marine scientific exploration and research at a global level. Although the resources of the sea-bed are scattered in limited areas of concentration, many delegations stressed that world-wide international co-operation should also be considered from now on in order to encourage the exploitation of these resources for the benefit of all mankind."

Mr. ARORA (India) supported the United Kingdom amendment.

Mr. KIKHIA (Libya) and Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America) also supported the amendment but felt that the first sentence of paragraph 10 should be retained. It could be inserted as the second sentence of the United Kingdom amendment.

It was so decided.

Paragraph 10, as amended, was adopted.

Mr. Arora (India), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

Paragraph 11

Mr. FLEMMING (United Kingdom) proposed the insertion of the words "or local" after the words "at a regional" and the insertion of the word "practical" after the words "the possibilities of" and the replacement of the word "more" by "especially" in the first sentence. The word "processing" in the third sentence should be "data-processing".

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Mr. GRANELLI (Argentina) supported those amendments

The amendments were adopted.

Paragraph 11, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 12

Mr. YANKOV (Bulgaria) said that, since the Working Group could not now foresee all the possible legal forms of organizing international co-operation and since future co-operation might in specific cases require the establishment of new institutions, the second sentence should be broadened and made more flexible. He suggested that the second sentence should be replaced by "Thus it would be desirable to promote co-operation; this could be done by existing regional and international organizations and by any other means that might be considered feasible and applicable".

Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America), Mr. KIKHIA (Libya), and Mr. ABDEL-HAMID (United Arab Republic) supported the amendment.

The amendment was adopted.

Paragraph 12, as amended, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING

Held on Friday, 23 August 1968, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. DENORME

Belgium

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE (A/AC.135/L.1, annex I, and A/AC.135/R.1/Add.1) (concluded)

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Working Group should consider admissible only those proposals for amendment which were submitted in writing to the Rapporteur or to the Bureau.

It was so decided.

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, referred to the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom and amended by Argentina at the preceding meeting, according to which the expression "marine mineral resources" would be replaced by the following new wording: "mineral resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof". It might perhaps be preferable to replace that amended text by the expression "marine mineral deposits", which implicitly excluded minerals in solution in sea water.

If it was adopted, that expression would be used in paragraphs 2 (first sentence), 4 (second sentence), 8, and 9 (second sentence).

Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered the wording suggested by the Rapporteur unsatisfactory, for research had proved the existence, on the surface of the sea-bed and ocean floor, of minerals which could not properly be called deposits. His delegation, for its part, preferred the United Kingdom amendment as modified by Argentina, which covered all minerals that were at the bottom of the oceans and that were not dissolved in sea water.

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, withdrew his suggestion, in view of the USSR representative's objection.

The United Kingdom amendment, as amended by Argentina, was adopted.

Paragraph 7

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, said that the second sentence of the original draft text should be left unchanged in the English version, as follows: "They therefore held the view that both proposals should more appropriately be discussed in the Ad Hoc Committee."

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Paragraph 8

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, proposed that the word "and" after the words "restricted to its scientific" should be deleted from the amended version of the draft text.

The amendment was adopted.

Paragraph 9

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, suggested that the words "mineral resources of the sea" in the last sentence of paragraph 9, as amended, should be replaced by the words "mineral resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor and subsoil thereof".

The amendment was adopted.

Paragraph 12

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, suggested that the words "among these countries" should be added after the words "to promote co-operation" in the second sentence of the amended text.

The amendment was adopted.

Paragraph 6

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, read out to the Working Group the revised text of paragraph 6 proposed jointly by the Soviet Union, the United States and the United Arab Republic, as follows:

"The Economic and Technical Working Group noted that the Economic and Social Council: Invites the General Assembly to endorse the concept of a co-ordinated long-term programme of oceanographic research designed to increase, in the interests of world economic development, the resources available to all people of the world, taking also into account such initiatives as the proposal for an International Decade of Ocean Exploration and several international programmes already considered, approved and adopted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for implementation, in certain cases, in co-operation with other specialized agencies. The Working Group expressed appreciation of the proposal for the

(Mr. Prohaska, Austria)

decade and generally supported the idea of expanded international co-operation in the study of mineral resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor and the subsoil thereof. It was also noted that the IOC considered the proposal for an IDOE as a useful initiative for broadening and accelerating such investigations and for strengthening international co-operation."

Mr. HAQUE (Pakistan) suggested that to accommodate the proposal made at the previous meeting by the representative of India, the sentence immediately after the quotation from the Economic and Social Council resolution should be amended to read as follows: "While some delegations raised some questions and asked for certain clarification, the Working Group expressed appreciation of the proposal...".

The new text of paragraph 6, as thus amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 7 ter

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, read out paragraph 7 ter, the text of which was as follows:

"The Working Group felt that both the proposed 'expanded programme' and the 'Decade of Ocean Exploration' should include concrete plans aimed at strengthening the research capabilities of developing nations."

Paragraph 7 ter was adopted.

Paragraph 15

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, informed the Working Group that the representative of India had proposed the following two amendments:

1. At the beginning of the third sentence, replace the word "some" by the word "many";

2. In the first sentence, replace the words "in promoting co-operation in development and exploitation..." by the following new text:

"promoting, co-ordinating and directing the development and exploitation...".

The CHAIRMAN requested the Working Group to discuss the two amendments separately, in the order in which they had been proposed.

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Mr. ARORA (India) pointed out that the amendment to the first sentence of the paragraph which he had submitted to the Rapporteur was also supported by ten or so other countries, including Kenya, Ceylon, Pakistan, Liberia, Libya, the United Arab Republic, Yugoslavia and Malta.

Mr. HAQUE (Pakistan) said that in fact most if not all of the developing countries represented on the Working Group had been of the opinion that the United Nations should be given the responsibility mentioned in the third sentence of paragraph 15 of the draft.

Mr. FLEMMING (United Kingdom) pointed out that the question of technical assistance to developing countries for the development of the resources of the continental shelf did not fall within the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Committee, which had to deal only with the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction. Nevertheless, his delegation supported the provision of such technical assistance to developing countries, and was not opposed to the question being mentioned in the Working Group's report to the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Indian amendment to the beginning of the third sentence of paragraph 15 was adopted.

Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America) said that he could not accept the Indian amendment to the first sentence of the paragraph, for it went beyond the terms of reference of the Working Group and the Ad Hoc Committee.

His delegation suggested that it should be replaced by the following amendment: "in promoting and co-ordinating co-operation in development and exploitation...". It could never accept the idea of entrusting the United Nations with the direction of the activities envisaged in the first sentence of paragraph 15. If the Indian representative pressed his amendment, the United States delegation would ask for a sentence to be added to the report specifying that in the view of other delegations, the Working Group had gone beyond its terms of reference in approving that amendment.

Mr. ODA (Japan) supported the view expressed by the United States representative.

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Mr. YANKOV (Bulgaria) was of the opinion that the idea of co-ordination should be retained if the Working Group did not wish to limit the scope of the proposed text. Moreover, while the United Nations might well play a role in promoting and co-ordinating co-operation in development and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, it was not in a position to direct exploration and exploitation activities.

Mr. ARORA (India) said that he could accept the compromise wording proposed by the United States representative and supported by the Bulgarian representative, provided that the other delegations which had supported his proposal also found it acceptable.

Mr. ABDEL-HAMID (United Arab Republic) supported the representative of India.

Mr. ZEGERS (Chile) proposed that the words "beyond the limits of national jurisdiction" should be added at the end of the first sentence, as amended by India.

The Chilean amendment was adopted.

The Indian amendment to the first sentence of paragraph 15, as further amended by Chile, was adopted.

Paragraph 15, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 16

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, read out an amendment submitted by the delegation of Italy to delete the remainder of the paragraph after the words "international co-operation" and replace it by the words "by considering the concept of international enterprises".

Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the words "It was", at the beginning of the paragraph, should be replaced by the words "Certain delegations had", as the present wording did not reflect the view of the majority.

Mr. ABDEL-HAMID (United Arab Republic) endorsed the Italian amendment.

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Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America) suggested that the present wording, which seemed to him to be too neutral, should be replaced by the sentence "Certain delegations also favoured international co-operation in the private sector". The new wording would express the ideas that had been put forward, without overstepping the Working Group's terms of reference.

Mr. YANKOV (Bulgaria) supported the Italian amendment, which, he felt, reflected a realistic approach. As there was no legal precedent, it would be a long time before the concept of a legal body that did not come under national jurisdiction could be defined. As things were, even a vessel flying the United Nations flag had to be registered in some State, and the establishment of an international legal order was still a remote possibility.

Mr. KELSO (Australia) proposed a compromise solution, to add, after the first sentence as modified by the Italian amendment, the formula proposed by the representative of the United States.

Paragraph 16, as thus amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 17 (3)

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, read out an amendment proposed by the Soviet delegation, to insert after the words "and investigation of the marine environment" the words "including the proposal of the Secretary-General on the expanded programme of research and the proposal of the United States on the International Decade of Ocean Exploration".

Sub-paragraph 17 (3), as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 17 (5)

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, recalled that the Japanese delegation had proposed replacement of the words "aiming towards the development and exploitation..." by the words "aiming towards international co-operation in the development and exploitation...".

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, read out an amendment proposed by the Soviet delegation to the end of the paragraph, to bring it into line with the wording of paragraph 277 of document E/4487.

Mr. de BREUVERY (Representative of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) explained that a number of typographical errors had slipped into paragraph 277, and a corrigendum would be issued to cover them. The words "technical assistance" should be added before the word "activities" and the words "beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction" after "the whole ocean"; in addition, the words "for resolving" should be replaced by the words "for aiding the solution of" and the word "administrative" by the word "organizational".

In the light of those explanations, Mr. KORT (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) withdrew his amendment.

Mr. McKELVEY (United States of America) wondered whether it would not be advisable to add, at the bottom of the last page of document A/AC.135/R.1/Add.1, a foot-note concerning the modifications to be made to paragraph 277.

Mr. KIKHIA (Libya) proposed that the word "important" in the first line of sub-paragraph (5) should be replaced by the word "essential".

That amendment was adopted.

Mr. KELSO (Australia) proposed that the amended text of paragraph 277 should be distributed in conjunction with the final text of the report so as to make an up-to-date version available to Governments, which were using an uncorrected text.

The CHAIRMAN said that agreement had been reached on the wording of sub-paragraph 17 (5) on the understanding that there would be a foot-note indicating that paragraph 277 of document E/4487 was to be revised.

Sub-paragraph 17 (5), as amended by Japan and Libya, was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN called upon the Working Group to consider the draft report as a whole.

Mr. PROHASKA (Austria), Rapporteur, presented to the Ad Hoc Committee, for its approval, the editorial changes to document A/AC.135/R.1 and document A/AC.135/L.1, annex I, set forth in the working paper dated 21 August 1968.

The changes set forth in the working paper dated 21 August 1968 were adopted.

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Mr. GRANELLI (Argentina) withdrew the reservations expressed by his delegation with respect to the report on the resources of the sea, which formed the subject of foot-note 1 to annex I of the draft interim report of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.135/L.1, annex I, page 1). He proposed that foot-note 2 of annex I to the same document should be reworded as follows:

"The delegation of Argentina had reservations with respect to the working principles set forth in point 5 on the grounds that they were not wholly compatible with the present state of oceanographic knowledge bearing in mind, in particular, the fact that:

(1) The description of the working principles was technically incomplete and should be elaborated upon;

(2) The list did not cover all the geological and topographical factors. It should be supplemented by a description of other geomorphological irregularities on the sea-bed and the ocean floor."

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Working Group should adopt the draft report before it.

The draft report of the Economic and Technical Working Group (A/AC.135/R.1/Add.1) was adopted.

Mr. FLEMMING (United Kingdom) paid tribute to the excellent and skilful manner in which the Chairman had summed up the various opinions expressed during the Group's meetings on complex technical matters. His delegation accepted that the Chairman's summary did in general represent the course and flavour of the discussion, with due allowance for the fact that some delegations might, in the interests of consensus, have abstained from objection or supported compromise statements. In view of this, his delegation reserved its right to comment further on these summaries after due consideration.

After the customary exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared the second session of the Economic and Technical Working Group closed.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.