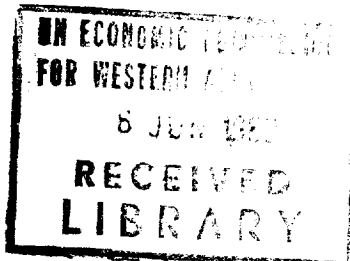




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Item 7 (c) of the agenda

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT DECADE

80-3263

Pursuant to the decision taken by the Economic Commission for Western Asia at its seventh session (the morning meeting held on 21 April 1980) to set up a Subcommittee for the purpose of proposing amendments to the documents on the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade which were presented at the session, the said Subcommittee met with the following membership:

Mr. Abdel-Aziz Al-Sara'wi	Head of the delegation of Kuwait, Chairman
Mr. Ali Al-Mousa	Member of the delegation of Kuwait
Mr. Ziad Fariz	Representative of Jordan
Mr. Mohsin Al-Baqshy	Representative of Bahrain
Mr. Sabri Al-Saadi	Representative of Iraq
Mr. Ahmed Radjai	Representing the ECWA secretariat, acted as a rapporteur.

The Subcommittee studied the observations submitted by the delegations of the member States, reviewed the provisions of the documents on the subject and decided to put forward four recommendations:

A. The following guidelines should be adopted and embodied in the general provisions of the proposed international development strategy for the decade of the eighties, with resultant changes be made wherever necessary reflecting the following:

1. A separate paragraph entitled "The region, the Zionist entity and its hostile activities" should be added to section II D of the "Development Objectives and Strategy in the Third Decade" for the purpose of setting down

the position of the member States of the Commission on the subject and strengthening the conviction of the countries of the world in the validity of that position. The new paragraph should read as follows:

"The Israeli occupation of Palestine and the territories of several Arab States, the uprooting and the continuous violation and disregard of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, the uninterrupted aggression against South Lebanon, Israel's persistent military threat, supported by forces hostile to the States of the region and the security of its peoples and the threats against the sovereign rights of the region over its resources and its economy, represent a threat to the economic independence of the region and an obstacle to the pressing need of the region for accelerated development. Moreover, the designs and ambitions of the Zionist entity and its present relationship with the Sadat regime in Egypt impose an added burden on member States and thereby constitute a direct impediment to the achievement of the goals of the international development strategy for the eighties and a threat to the stability of the States of the region and to international peace."

2. A separate paragraph entitled "Equitable distribution of income" should be added to section II E of the document, in order to underline the importance of the subject, reflecting the following:

"The disparities in income distribution, both inside the developing countries and among them, constitute an obstacle to national, regional and international development efforts that aim at improving the socio-economic conditions of the peoples of these countries. Accordingly, an effort should be made to redistribute incomes so that the citizens of these countries will be encouraged to work more productively and more effectively and so that the prospect of these countries gravitating towards social and political turmoil will be reduced. To further these ends, efforts should be made to channel a greater share of national, regional and international loans and aid to the least developed countries of the region to projects whose aim is not only to put into effect sound economic and financial policies, but also to narrow the gap in the income distribution."

3. A separate paragraph should be added following section II E 6, entitled "The role of planning in economic and social development" dealing with the important role of planning in the achievement of the goals of the international development strategy reflecting the following:

"In order to further the goals of the international development strategy for the eighties, greater consideration should be made of the role of planning as a scientific instrument for the achievement of national development strategies and goals of the developing countries in general and the countries of the region in particular. Scientific planning is essential for the rationalization of the different aspects and branches of developmental decision-making at all levels, for the optimum utilization of available resources and for the sound assessment of the expected results of national and international development efforts. In this respect, it is necessary to expand and develop planning expertise for national development amongst developing countries and express that through technical co-operation agreements and improved co-ordination efforts, thereby furthering the greater integration of economic and social development plans among developing countries in general and the countries of the region in particular."

4. A separate paragraph should be added to section II E entitled "The role of the public sector" expressing the importance of the public sector in development reflecting the following:

"Encouraging and promoting an active role for the public sector in economic activities so that the public sector can assume a leading role in their orientation and consequently make a greater contribution to the success of national development strategy and objectives. The provision of the practical conditions for such a trend does not diminish the importance and the role of the private sector in national development."

5. The title of section II 13 should be changed to read as follows: "The role of social change in development." The following should also be inserted before paragraphs 120-127:

"Social development factors play a crucial role in the achievement of the economic development goals of the international development strategy. Efforts aimed at increasing manpower employment and the participation of the different social groups, especially limited-income groups, labour unions and professional and people associations, in social, economic and political activities and increasing the share of limited-income groups, especially in the rural areas, in general social services and in total GDP, will, in the presence of other conditions for development, act to further the goals of development at the national and regional levels and the goals of the international development strategy."

6. A separate paragraph entitled "The role of foreign trade" should be added to section II E reflecting the following:

"With the growth of the volume and importance of foreign trade, especially among the developing countries, there is now a manifest need for improving the balance of trade in the interest of these countries and for formulating trade policies favourable to the establishment and development of national industries, such as the adoption of protective tariffs and the standardization of customs tariffs, especially in the ECWA countries. There is also a need for strengthening the solidarity of the developing countries and the countries of the region with a view to restricting the import of competitive goods from the industrialized countries. There is likewise a need for the rejection of the discriminatory policies pursued by the industrialized countries in matters related to the transfer of technology to, and the implementation of development projects in, the developing countries, including the countries of the ECWA region."

7. A separate paragraph entitled "The role of the oil sector in development" should be added to section II E reflecting the following:

"Among the major objectives of the international development strategy is the strengthening of national economies and the promotion of their economic independence, including the exercise of sovereign right over their natural resources. Accordingly, it is advisable for the countries of the region to reduce their dependence on oil revenues for financing capital and current expenditures by raising their growth rates in the non-petroleum sectors and activities, thereby increasing their contribution to the over-all economic growth rate. The increase in the relative importance of the non-oil sectors is conducive to the attainment of more balanced economies that are less vulnerable to dangers arising from the state of the economies of the industrialized countries and their evolving problems."

8. The following considerations should be taken into account in the redrafting of the document:

- (a) It should be made clear in the document, wherever possible and appropriate, that the region is part of the Arab Nation with whom it joins efforts;
- (b) Development strategies and policies of the countries of the region should be given a human dimension. The role of the region in the evolution of human civilization should be also alluded to wherever possible and appropriate in the document;
- (c) The term "developed countries" should be replaced by the term "industrialized countries" 1/ wherever it appears in the document.

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1/ ECWA modified it as follows: "industrially advanced"

B. The ECWA secretariat should undertake the necessary steps to reformulate the proposed draft of the international development strategy for the third decade, including the addition of necessary details and the amendment of any statistical or numerical indicators in the body of the document; it should also undertake to rearrange it into parts, to number its paragraphs and to integrate into its text all the principles and guidelines that appear in the document before the Commission E/ECWA/97/Add.1 (which embodies the contents of documents E/ECWA/DPD/WG.14/3, E/ECWA/DPD/WG.14/1/Rev.1 and E/ECWA/DPD/WG.14/3/Add.3), the report of the present subcommittee and the comments put forward by the representatives of the member States, thereby producing a unified technical document. The secretariat should also add an appendix of available comparative indicators on the evolution of the economies of member States and any other technical data that may help to clarify the general indicators and objectives described in parts I and II.

C. Upon completing the modifications indicated above, the secretariat should send the document to member States in preparation for its presentation to the Preparatory Committee for the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade to express the views of the countries of the region on the subject.

D. The ECWA secretariat is to be thanked for the valuable efforts it has expended in the preparation of the documents under study. The serious contributions of member States to enriching the discussion of the subject during this session are also welcome.

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