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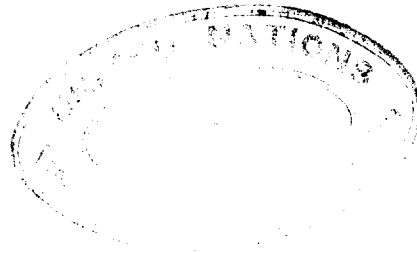
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FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE RESOLUTIONS  
ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS  
THIRD SESSION, IN MAY 1976

The Commission, at its third session, adopted a number of resolutions with provisions calling for action by the secretariat. This document depicts, in brief, the necessary follow-up action(s) taken, during the period under review, towards the implementation of these provisions.

Resolution 23(III): The Euro-Arab Dialogue

1. The Commission, under operative paragraph (2) of the resolution invited "the Executive Secretary to consult with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States on ways and means which could enable the Commission to assist in achieving the objectives of the Euro-Arab Dialogue."
2. Pursuant to the above provision, the Secretariat of the Commission carried out intensive consultations with the Secretariats of the League of Arab States and the Economic Commission for Europe, (for a detailed report of the issues discussed, reference is made to E/ECWA/45/Add.2).

Resolution 24(III): Reconstruction and  
Development of Lebanon

1. The Executive Secretary, working in harmony with the provisions of Commission Resolution 24(III), took immediate action, as soon as hostilities stopped, in order to "extend all possible assistance for the co-ordination of efforts made for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon".
2. In response to the request of the Lebanese Government, the Executive Secretary strengthened ECWA staff in Beirut by moving the Development Planning Division back to Beirut in order to facilitate the rendering of advisory services officially requested by the Lebanese Government within the framework of the assistance to Lebanon by the United Nations system.
3. The Executive Secretary, along with the Chief of DPD, entered into intensive substantive consultations with the Lebanese Government, with a view to extending immediate and urgent assistance to Lebanon. Upon the request of the Prime Minister, the Chief of DPD prepared a project document (see brief version of the project under E/ECWA/48/Add.1) for a United Nations Inter-Disciplinary Advisory Team to Lebanon which is expected to
  - (a) conduct quick surveys and position papers for urgent policy decisions on the Economic and social problems preoccupying the Lebanese authorities;
  - (b) serve as the nucleus for the preparation of Lebanon's comprehensive medium-term plan; and,
  - (c) prepare the ground for studies on the long-run development prospects of Lebanon and the broad options available to it for growth, under conditions of economic and social stability. This request could not be accommodated, so far, due to financial and other considerations.
4. Through its staff and regional advisers, and working under the supervision of the Chief of DPD, ECWA was also able to assist in the establishment of the Housing Bank and the Reconstruction and Development Council. In the latter case, a senior staff from ESA at UN Headquarters also joined to extend the necessary advice. Moreover, ECWA extended advice on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Lebanon's railroad

system and is continuing advisory services through membership in Lebanon's Relief Committee and in the Preparatory Committee related to the operations of the Housing Bank.

5. Upon the request of the Lebanese Government, ECWA has already started a study on a Housing Policy in Lebanon. This study is designed to be action-oriented and to contribute to the establishment of a long-range policy for the implementation of low cost housing in Lebanon.

6. As per the instructions of the Executive Secretary, and operating within its resource constraints and the requirements of its programmes, ECWA will continue to give Lebanon priority considerations.

Resolution 26(III): A Programme of Action in  
Favour of the Least Developed Countries of the Region

1. In operative paragraph (1) of the resolution, the Commission urged "the Executive Secretary to consult with the United Nations Office for Technical Co-operation and the United Nations Development Programme with a view to finding a method of obtaining adequate funds for a reasonable planning period so that the United Nations regional project in Public Finance and Administration may continue its services<sup>1/</sup> during its second phase in order to meet the requests of Governments, recipients of the services of the project".
2. Pursuant to the above provision, ECWA carried out consultations with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office of Technical Co-operation with a view to obtaining adequate funds from UNDP to enable the project to continue its services to the three beneficiary countries, namely, the Sultanate of Oman, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic. Discussions with UNDP on this matter did not produce the desired results. UNDP (i.e. the Bureau for Europe, Mediterranean and the Middle East) informed ECWA that because of their current financial difficulties and the fact that Public Finance and Administration is not a priority area in the regional programmes for the 1977-1981 cycle, they will not be able to assist this project. On the other hand, the United Nations (OTC) was agreeable to maintain its annual assistance of US\$ 200,000 from the Regular Budget for 1977 without any promise for the years to come. The assistance from the United Nations is appreciated, but it does not offer a firm prospect for continuity. The matter is, therefore, referred to the Member States of ECWA for appropriate action.

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<sup>1/</sup> For a brief report on the activities of the project during the period under review, see E/ECWA/45, pages 5-8.

Resolution 27(III): General Study of the Economic and Social Situation and Potential of the Palestinian Arab People

1. Under operative paragraph (2) of the resolution, the Commission requested "the Executive Secretary to make arrangements to carry out a comprehensive study of the economic and social situation and potential of the entire Palestinian Arab People in accordance with the broad outline" in ECWA's report on the subject (document E/ECWA/32/Add.1).
2. Upon the relocation of ECWA in Amman, a Task Force was formed of representatives of the Office of the Executive Secretary and the various divisions/units directly concerned to observe the implementation of ECWA resolution 27(III), and prepare progress reports thereon. Inasmuch as circumstances permitted the Task Force maintained regular contacts with the representative of PLO on the matter.
3. The first major step in the work of the Task Force was the recruitment of the Consultant/Study Director who would prepare the appropriate methodology and approach to the study, direct and supervise its implementation. The qualifications of such a consultant were of crucial importance in order to ensure the objectivity of the study and guarantee that it should be as comprehensive as possible. A number of highly qualified individuals were selected in consultation with the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and letters were addressed to them to find out their availability.
4. Names of candidates for the two posts of senior researchers and two research assistants were also collected and studied. Appropriate steps have been taken for their recruitment. Job description for all the posts mentioned above were prepared.

Resolution 28(III): Census of Palestine Arab People

1. The Commission, under operative paragraph (1) of the resolution urged "the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to furnish the material support necessary for beginning implementation of this project before the end of 1976, and under operative paragraph (2) called "upon the Executive Secretary to take all necessary steps, in close co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, for beginning the population census operations as soon as possible after the meeting of the Preparatory Committee to be held in 1976".
2. Pursuant to the above, contacts were made with the representatives of PLO and UNFPA to undertake the "Census of the Palestine Arab People". An amount of US\$ 10,000 was allotted by UNFPA to hold a preparatory meeting in 1976. UNFPA has been contacted to authorize expenditure of this amount in 1977, a proposal to which they have already agreed in principle.
3. All administrative and technical arrangements have been undertaken to hold this meeting early in May 1977, subject to receipt of UNFPA authorization in time. A list of experts has been prepared including PLO representatives. This meeting will discuss mainly the questions of "Definition" and "Methods of data collection." A draft study on the above questions has been prepared by ECWA and the final draft will be a working paper for the meeting.
4. As agreed by UNFPA, a project document will be prepared after the meeting which will be the basis for discussion with them on the financing required for undertaking the field work and related matters.



Resolution 31(III): Co-operation with Regional Institutions

1. The Commission, under operative paragraph (1) of the resolution, called "upon the Secretariat of the Commission to define the modes and principles of the proposed co-ordination and co-operation with regional institutions, to make arrangements for co-ordination and co-operation with them in consultation with these institutions and to undertake to notify the Commission at its next meeting of the steps taken in this connexion". Under operative paragraph (2), it called "upon the secretariat of the Commission to make arrangements for co-ordination and co-operation with regional institutions in the form of agreements where these institutions so request".
2. Pursuant to the above provisions, the secretariat of the Commission undertook the following:
3. A memorandum of Understanding on Relations and Co-operation between the Industrial Development Centre for Arab States (IDCAS) and ECWA was concluded and signed in October 1976. It mainly provides for consultations between the two secretariats with a view to identifying areas and modalities of co-operation and co-ordination on a case by case basis within the framework of their work programmes and in other particular cases. It also calls for consultations on the most advantageous ways to promote the co-ordination of the industrialization efforts of the countries serviced by them both. Moreover, the two organizations shall exchange data, studies and reports and invite each other to conferences, meetings, seminars, etc. of mutual interest. Discussions were held at the Headquarters of IDCAS covering the progress in the implementation of the joint project on the fertilizer industry in the Arab countries. Other subjects of mutual concern were also discussed.
4. An Agreement for Co-operation between the Arab Labour Organization (ALO) and ECWA was signed in April 1977. It mainly establishes the general framework for co-operation between the two organizations and co-ordination

of their respective activities. Taking into consideration their respective terms of reference and work programmes, the two organizations will undertake continuous consultations in matters of mutual concern and encourage the exchange of data and documentation as well as co-ordinate joint projects and activities. Specific agreements covering their joint activities will be concluded on a case by case basis. Arrangements have already been made to attend conferences and meetings held under the auspices of both organizations.

5. Notwithstanding the delay in concluding the formal agreement for co-operation between the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) and ECWA, due mainly to the difficult circumstances through which ECWA had to pass last year, practical steps have been taken in that direction. On the basis of exchange of their work programmes, proposals for co-operation in concrete projects have been made by the CAEU which are still under consideration by ECWA. Other concrete proposals for co-operation in the field of transport and communications are also being considered.

6. Pursuant to the 1975 Joint Statement on co-operation between the Arab League and ECWA, a delegation from the League held discussions with ECWA officials on ways and means to give effect to the areas of possible collaboration as contained in the Statement. A number of concrete proposals for joint undertakings emerged. The League, in particular, sought ECWA's collaboration in the presentation of an Arab strategy in the field of transport and the establishment of an Arab money and capital market. Agreement in principle has been given for ECWA's collaboration and details are expected to be worked out in due course.

7. A number of meetings were held between ECWA and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to discuss the progress of execution of the three projects partly financed by the Funds namely, (1) the Documentation Centre, (2) the Annual Statistical Abstract of the Arab World, and (3) the Brain Drain. For further details, reference is made to E/ECWA/45 and E/ECWA/45/Add.1 & 2.

8. In this connexion, the positive outcome of the visit to the Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at Addis Ababa by the ECWA Executive Secretary was brought to the attention of the Funds. Agreement has been reached by the two Executive Secretaries to collaborate in the implementation of these three projects by extending their coverage to the eight Arab countries in Africa. Practical steps have been taken in that direction and fruitful results are expected soon.
9. Possibilities for execution of other joint projects with ECA were agreed upon and details will be worked out by the competent divisions of the two secretariats for initiating implementation.
10. Co-operative efforts are expected to be strengthened in 1977 between ECWA and the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), mainly in the collection, processing and dissemination of energy statistics.
11. Contacts have been established between ECWA and the secretariats of the Arab League Educational Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (AOAD), and the Arab Organization for Administrative Sciences (AOAS), with a view to concluding working arrangements for co-operation.