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COMMITTEE I
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DRAFT REPORT OF COMMITTEE I

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PART I (continued)

Addendum

I. SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

Programmes for International Co-operation

1. The Committee discussed "Programmes for International Co-operation" contained in documents A/CONF.70/6 and Add.1, A/CONF.70/7 and 8. Statements were made on the objectives, functions, programmes and institutional arrangements for international co-operation. The close relationship of such programmes with the Declaration of Principles and Recommendations for National Action was stressed. Many delegates felt that a consensus on the Declaration of Principles would serve as the basis for international co-operation. The momentum already generated by the Habitat Conference, in creating global awareness of human settlement issues, must be continued after the Conference.
2. It was generally agreed that national action in the field of human settlements was of primary importance and that the role of international co-operation should be to supplement it in areas where the country itself was unable to mount effective programmes. It was pointed out that the decisions on the programmes for international action could take the form of a set of recommendations in line with those for national action. Some delegations felt that the recommendations might be based on the substantive items contained therein.
3. It was generally felt that increased multilateral and bilateral co-operation and assistance were needed and that countries themselves should elaborate their priority programmes, for example, through the UNDP country programme exercise. Some developed countries indicated their willingness to provide such assistance. The important role of non-governmental organizations in the human settlement field was also recognized and several countries suggested that their participation be encouraged.

4. It was generally felt that it would not be appropriate for the Conference to take decisions or specific programmes of co-operation but rather to indicate areas where programmes would be undertaken. Several areas were singled out for early attention: (a) exchange of information and experiences; (b) education, training and applied research; (c) development of delivery mechanisms; and (d) transfer of technology. The need for decisions on priorities was stressed.

5. Concerning the form that the institutional arrangements might take the predominant view was that use should be made of the existing United Nations institutions and machinery and that the proliferation of new agencies should be avoided. Many delegations favoured a solution centred around a strengthened Centre for Housing, Building and Planning within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Several delegations were in favour rather of placing the central responsibility for human settlements within the United Nations Environment Programme. A few delegations advocated the establishment of a new independent body. Some delegations chose not to indicate any preference at this stage.

6. Many delegations supported the proposal for further decentralization of activities and the strengthening of regional structures. The need to have a clearly established division of such responsibilities at the regional and global level was also recognized.

7. Several delegations cautioned that a decision on the international institutional arrangements should take into account results of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring. Furthermore, it was pointed out by some delegations that the financial implications of any recommendation on institutional arrangements should be carefully reviewed.

8. The desirability of improved exchange of information and experience as well as establishing general information systems at the global and regional level, with particular attention to innovative approaches in the human settlement field was emphasized. It was agreed that the materials prepared for the Habitat Conference constituted a valuable resource for exchange of experiences and training. In this connexion, many delegations supported the follow-up programme, proposed by the host country, for audio-visual materials. A willingness to transfer copyrights and internegatives of films was also indicated by several countries.
