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Technical Assistance

Draft letter to Heads of Agencies

DRAFT LETTER TO HEADS OF AGENCIESPersonal and Confidential

My dear

In common, I am sure, with you and all our colleagues on ACC, I have been giving what attention I could to the recommendations to ECOSOC on which we shall have to agree at our April meeting in Geneva.

The most difficult of these, to my way of thinking, has to do with the constitutional arrangements relating to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance about which the Advisory Committee wrote so emphatically. This is a very difficult problem because we should try to meet some of the views of the Committee but must not run any chances of weakening our present well-developed and reasonably efficient arrangements. Above all we must not take any chances of affecting the strong spirit of cooperation and understanding that exists between us. In this connection I have read with much interest the letter which Mr. Cardon addressed to me on 11 March.

As I think you know I would, myself, be content to see the present arrangements continue unchanged for a further reasonable period of trial. But mere adherence, on our part, to the status quo might lead the Council or the Assembly, faced with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, to dictate changes to which we should find it difficult to agree.

In spite of giving the situation a good deal of thought I must admit that I have come to no very clear or strong conclusions. Nor have



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I any well-developed plan to suggest.

There is one idea that I have been going over in my mind, and while it has not been formalized or worked out in detail I have decided to pass it on to you and our other colleagues to see if you think it might merit further consideration.

Roughly and baldly expressed my idea is that we might consider the possibility of proposing that ACC take over the policy responsibilities of TAB (subject, of course, to TAC and ECOSOC) and that TAB be turned into an ACC Secretariat for technical assistance. Under this arrangement the Executive Chairman would be the head of the Secretariat with some such title as Executive Director. He would be directly responsible to ACC for the execution of the programme. The ACC would meet only two or three times a year (as it does now) and while you and I and other heads of Agencies would participate for a day or two each time we could let our deputies carry on for the remainder of each meeting as they do at present in TAB.

This suggestion, as I see it, would have the advantage of meeting some part of the theoretical difficulties with which the Advisory Committee is concerned and yet it would not make any material change in the present method of operation.

As I have said, this is only an idea and I have obviously not worked it out in any detail. But at first glance the idea seems to contain possibilities and it is on this account that I have passed it on to you for your comment and criticism. If you think it worth pursuing we can

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try our hands at a more detailed draft for discussion at Geneva.

Let me say that I should, of course, be more than glad to have any suggestions that may have developed in your own thinking on this subject.

With personal regards,