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CORRIGENDUM

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTH PLENARY MEETING

(Corrected text of the last four paragraphs in the
summary of the speech by Mr. HAIDER (Iraq))

Underdeveloped countries should be helped during the transitional period to carry out their obligations to develop their resources until such time as they could carry out all the other obligations of the Charter.

He pointed out that since the opening of the Suez Canal great progress had been made in his country. However, Iraq had been hampered by lack of capital, experience and skill, and the recent war had halted irrigation schemes and other construction projects. Certain restrictions had had to be placed on the importation of goods.

Iraq and Transjordan were members of the Arab League and were bound by the decisions of that League to strengthen economic ties among Arab countries. By the Treaty of Lausanne preferential treatment was permitted among those countries which had been part of the Ottoman Empire, and Iraq had been one of those countries. He noted that the Charter did not exclude preferential treatment, but he felt that the interests of all would be better served if they reserved the right freely to practice preference in order to foster the development of that part of the world to which they belonged.

Until recently Iraq had never refused entry to goods on grounds of origin or prohibited the sale of goods on grounds of destination, nor had she prevented the passage of goods on either of those two grounds. However, a grave situation had forced her to abandon this policy in one instance in conformity with a decision of the Arab League which had been taken before the drafting of the proposals which led to the Charter of the ITO. He was confident that there would be safeguards in the Charter to protect Iraq's vital interests in that respect.
