

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PIRSON (Belgium)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 98: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981 (continued)

First reading (continued)

Section 9. Transnational corporations (continued)

Section 28. Administration, management and general services (continued)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550, 866 United Nations Plaza (Alcoa Building), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/34/SR.43
22 November 1979
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 98: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981 (continued) (A/34/6 and Add.1, A/34/7 and Add.3 and 4, A/34/38 (Parts I-V); A/C.5/34/15, 16 and 19)

First reading (continued)

Section 9. Transnational corporations (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN indicated that document A/C.5/34/CRP.7 containing information requested by the Fifth Committee concerning section 9 had just been issued, although not in all working languages. He therefore suggested that consideration of that section should be deferred.
2. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) said that his delegation hoped that the Committee would not take a decision on section 9 until all delegations had had an opportunity to study document A/C.5/34/CRP.7.
3. The CHAIRMAN said that a decision would be postponed until the conference room paper had been studied, and he called on the Secretariat to make every effort to distribute the document that same day in all languages.

Section 28. Administration, management and general services (continued)

4. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on section 28 of the proposed programme budget (A/34/7, paras. 28.1 to 28.139), observed that the amount requested by the Secretary-General for the section was \$223,128,500; in addition, there was an extrabudgetary provision of \$11,303,500. The resources requested covered the requirements of 13 organizational units, the biggest of which were the Office of General Services, Headquarters (\$81,784,300) and the General Services Division, Geneva (\$46,134,000). For section 28 as a whole, the Secretary-General had requested 36 additional established posts: 15 in the Professional category and 21 in other categories. The Advisory Committee was recommending approval of the creation of 23 of the posts (10 in the Professional category and 13 in other categories) but not of the remaining 13 (5 in the Professional category and 8 in other categories).
5. The Advisory Committee was making other recommendations regarding section 28 under such headings as travel, temporary assistance posts, general temporary assistance and reclassifications. Its recommendations and the reasons on which they were based were set forth in detail in the relevant paragraphs of the report.
6. In section 28, as in other sections, the Budget Division had drawn a distinction for the first time between temporary assistance posts and general temporary assistance, thereby facilitating management of the resources allocated

/...

(Mr. Mselle)

under those headings. In paragraph 22 of its report, the Advisory Committee had made a number of observations on the use of general temporary assistance which applied also to section 28. Temporary assistance staff should not be recruited until it had been clearly demonstrated that the functions in question could not be distributed among the regular staff. It should be noted that, under section 28, staff resources had been redeployed, especially in the Office of General Services, Headquarters. Such action was commendable, particularly when the purpose was to avoid requests for additional posts. However, the Advisory Committee had observed cases in which posts had been redeployed for other reasons and, although it realized that there were factors influencing decisions on the redeployment of staff which could not always be ignored, it reiterated its opinion that the primary objective of redeployment should invariably be improved management and the optimum use of resources.

7. The Advisory Committee might be criticized for being excessively conservative in some of its recommendations on section 28, especially with regard to subsections 28C (Office of Personnel Services) and 28J (Staff training activities). It should be borne in mind that the Advisory Committee merely made recommendations and that the Fifth Committee had the last word. The reduction of \$412,500, which was a substantial part of the total reduction recommended under subsection 28C, was provisional, since, as was indicated in paragraph 28.21 of the report, it related to five temporary Professional posts, which would be considered in the context of the report on the classification exercise to be submitted to the General Assembly at the current session. The remainder of the reduction in the estimate for the subsection (\$95,100) was explained in the relevant paragraphs.

8. The Advisory Committee was recommending a reduction of \$1,091,600 in the estimate for subsection D, Office of General Services, Headquarters. In paragraph 28.43, it expressed its concern at the lack of control over the use of communications, particularly long-distance telephone calls, and urged the Secretary-General to take steps to remedy that situation and to reflect the resultant improvement in his programme budget proposals for 1982-1983. It added that, if no improvement occurred, consideration might have to be given to an external evaluation of the situation.

9. Subsection 28G, Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Division, covered the costs of the Office of the Director of the New York Computing Service (NYCS) and of the Service itself and the United Nations share of the estimates for the International Computing Centre at Geneva and the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems. The Fifth Committee would be considering the resources required for the latter on the basis of documents submitted separately and, after its discussion, would be able to determine the United Nations share in their financing. The largest element of expenditure for NYCS was the replacement of the central processing unit IBM model 370/158 by the IBM model 3033. On the basis of the information supplied to it, the Advisory Committee had decided to recommend approval of the replacement.

10. Subsection 28I, General Services Division, Geneva, reflected a negative resource growth of \$375,300, owing principally to the transfer of some units from Geneva to Vienna. The Secretary-General had made some planned economies, as

/...

(Mr. Mselle)

was indicated in paragraph 28I.38 of the proposed budget, and had adjusted requirements for such items as water, electricity, and rental and maintenance of equipment, which had been over-estimated in the past. The Advisory Committee was nevertheless recommending reductions in the estimates for subsection 28I and had not been able to approve all the reclassifications requested by the Secretary-General.

11. Subsection 28J covered staff training activities at Headquarters, Geneva and the regional commissions. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee were to be found in the relevant paragraphs of its report. In paragraph 28.96, the Advisory Committee had repeated the recommendation made in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1978-1979 concerning the external studies programme, namely, that a careful review was needed of the criteria used in the selection of candidates and courses of study. In paragraph 28.97 it had repeated another recommendation: that the staff language training programme should be evaluated for the purpose of ensuring that it met the needs defined by the General Assembly.

12. Subsection 28L, jointly financed administrative activities, included estimates for the International Civil Service Commission, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and the secretariat of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions. In paragraph 28.127 of its report, the Advisory Committee explained that it had been unable to recommend approval of the reclassifications proposed for JIU because it considered that the current staffing table of the secretariat of JIU already provided the career development opportunities sought by the proposed reclassifications.

13. Regarding subsection 28M, Administrative Services, Vienna, the Advisory Committee was recommending in paragraph 28.137 of its report that, for the time being, an amount of only \$11,174,400 should be included in the budget, which amount was equivalent to the 1978-1979 appropriations, and that the remaining \$17,880,800 requested by the Secretary-General should be considered later in the session. Thus, of the total reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee in the estimate for section 28, the amount of \$18,293,300 (\$17,880,800 under subsection 28M and \$412,500 under subsection 28C) was of a provisional nature.

14. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation considered unacceptable the increase of some \$40 million (approximately 20 per cent) in the estimate for section 28 of the proposed budget - which was much higher than the increase in other sections - especially since that section related to offices and services responsible for controlling expenditure within the United Nations system, from which one would expect moderation and financial restraint. He drew attention, in particular, to the request for \$14 million to cover the effects of inflation and the request for the creation of new posts. The Advisory Committee had recommended a number of reductions in the estimates and in the number of posts requested, but his delegation felt that the proposed reductions did not go far enough. The Soviet delegation could not agree to the creation of new posts and the increased expenditure entailed. Its position of principle with regard to the reclassification of posts was well known.

/...

(Mr. Vislykh, USSR)

15. Referring to the estimate of \$63,100 in the proposed budget for the Development Information System in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, he noted that the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 28.66 of its report, recognized that there was currently no legislative authority for the system. His delegation was firmly opposed to the inclusion of such costs in the regular budget and asked for assurances that in the future no estimates would be included in the budget for which there was no legislative authority.

16. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) asked whether in connexion with any other section of the regular budget there existed reimbursement agreements with other agencies similar to the agreement with UNDP referred to in paragraph 28.26 of the Advisory Committee's report.

17. In paragraph 28.33 of the Advisory Committee's report, it was indicated that, as a result of the restructuring exercise, a number of posts financed from extrabudgetary resources had been transferred to the regular budget. He asked how many posts were involved and how they were distributed by sector or area of activity.

18. His delegation supported the adoption of appropriate measures to control the use of photocopying equipment, as recommended in paragraph 28.42 of the Advisory Committee's report, but wished to add that, in the interests of greater efficiency, the Secretariat should exercise strict control over which documents were to be photocopied. With regard to the estimate for the purchase of furniture and equipment, he asked whether there might be any advantage in selling or even trading in used furniture and equipment.

19. His delegation would like to know what differences there were in the administrative and managerial structure of the International Computing Centre at Geneva (ICC) and the New York Computing Service (NYCS). He wondered whether savings might not be made by systematically reorganizing the administrative structure of both services. Lastly, he asked when ACC would complete its review of the budget proposals of IOB and how it would present its conclusions.

20. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) said that his delegation believed that, on the whole, the estimates did not reflect the kind of realistic effort which was needed to reduce costs to a minimum and increase the return on expenditure in a time of financial stringency. The Advisory Committee's analysis of section 28 of the proposed budget was commendable, but he felt that it had perhaps not gone far enough since, in his opinion, further reductions might have been made. His delegation supported the Advisory Committee's view that it was preferable to resort to overtime and temporary assistance before creating new established posts. Even so, a total of \$5.7 million had been requested for that purpose in section 28. It was necessary to reduce such costs through improved management.

21. The proposed budget submitted by the Secretary-General contained an excessive number of proposals for reclassification. In that connexion, he reiterated his delegation's well-known position on reclassifications.

/...

(Mr. Saddler, United States)

22. His delegation, which had consistently emphasized the need to improve the financial management of the United Nations, believed that section 28 of the proposed budget for the biennium 1980-1981 was clear proof of that need.

23. Mr. HOUNA GOLO (Chad) requested that, in considering separately the various subsections of section 28, the Committee leave until last the consideration of subsections 28C and 28J relating to the Office of Personnel Services and staff training activities respectively.

24. Mr. BECIN (Director, Budget Division), replying to a question concerning table 28A.1 of the proposed budget asked by the representative of Zaire at a previous meeting, said that representation allowances represented payments made to staff members at the D-2 level and above in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 5 of annex I to the Staff Regulations in order to compensate for such costs as might be reasonably incurred in the performance of duties assigned to them by the Secretary-General. Such payments were uniform, the amount was predetermined, and they were paid monthly together with salary. Hospitality, on the other hand, was an entirely different concept, and the relevant payments made represented the reimbursement, on presentation of documentary evidence, of special costs incurred by staff members at the D-1 level or below in the performance of their functions. With regard to the second question asked by the representative of Zaire concerning paragraph 28A.5 of the proposed budget, he indicated first that, in the performance of his duties, the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management was required to travel for purposes other than of attending meetings of ACC, and, secondly, that the figure of three annual meetings of ACC away from New York was an assumption, since it was not yet known where those meetings would be held in the next two years.

25. Replying to the question asked by the representative of Tunisia concerning the allocation of extrabudgetary resources, he pointed out that the Secretariat had prepared a report on that subject (A/C.5/34/41) and said that the practice of the United Nations was to finance posts from extrabudgetary resources when the work-load warranted it. In section 28, for example, posts were financed from extrabudgetary resources in the Accounts Division, the Medical Service, the Communications Service and the Internal Audit Division. With regard to the method of allocation properly speaking, he said that extrabudgetary resources were allocated on the basis of quantitative work-load indicators.

26. Mr. RUEDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services), referring to the allocation of extrabudgetary resources, said that, as the Director of the Budget Division had indicated, table 28.1 of the proposed budget contained a breakdown of costs financed from extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 1978-1979 (\$10,162,000) and for the biennium 1980-1981 (\$11,303,500). Subsequent tables showed for each division the source of financing for the respective posts. If the Committee so wished, a document could be prepared within a few days showing the relationship between table 28.1 and the subsequent tables in order to identify precisely which services were financed from the extrabudgetary resources indicated in table 28.1.

/...

27. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that he would be grateful if the Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services, in furnishing information, could provide a breakdown by area of activity of posts previously financed from extrabudgetary resources which had since been transferred to the regular budget.

28. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia) asked when the information which the Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services had offered to provide would be available to the Committee.

29. Mr. RUEDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services) replied that the Committee would have that information before it on Tuesday afternoon, or Wednesday morning, at the latest.

30. Mr. TIMBRELL (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services), replying to the question raised by the representative of the Philippines on controlling the use of photocopy machines, said that the Administrative Management Service had recently completed a study on the matter in co-operation with the Office of General Services and the Department of Conference Services. The recommendations made in that study were currently under consideration; basically they were the establishment of photocopy stations to copy documents in quantities which, though large, were not sufficient to warrant normal reproduction; the allocation of a limited number of photocopy machines with a relatively small output to offices where the use of such machines was justified; and completion of a study on the possibility of leasing rather than purchasing machines in some circumstances. The Office of General Services was studying those recommendations and although there were problems of availability of space and staff, he was sure that economies could be made in that area.

31. Replying to another question raised by the representative of the Philippines, he said that when a decision was taken to discard any kind of equipment, it was because it was in such a state that it had virtually no commercial value. However, in some cases, for example, that of vehicles, the used equipment could be traded in to help defray the purchase of new equipment. In such instances, a case-by-case study was made to determine the most appropriate course of action.

Section 28 B. Office of Financial Services

32. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) said that paragraph 7 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/34/486) indicated that the Board of Auditors, in its report to the Advisory Committee on matters arising out of the United Nations audit for the biennium 1978-1979 had stated that it was of the view that no significant progress had been made by the Administration to improve financial management and control systems in the United Nations, inasmuch as the two "key recommendations" made by the Board in its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session had not been implemented. The two recommendations in question related to (a) the Controller's ability to provide functional leadership, guidance and central direction on all financial functions, and (b) the establishment of a systems group to deal exclusively with the over-all systems of financial management and control.

/...

(Mr. Saddler, United States)

33. His delegation urged all Member States that were concerned to see sound financial management to request the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to support and strengthen the role of the Controller, so as to enable him to provide functional leadership, guidance and central direction of all United Nations financial functions.

34. It was a cause of continuing concern to his delegation that, as pointed out in the Advisory Committee's report (A/34/486), the Administration had not fulfilled the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in resolution 33/10.

35. The Administration had to give top priority to that task so that it could be completed in the shortest possible time and, in any event, before the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. Should it be necessary for the General Assembly to adopt a decision for that purpose, his delegation would be willing to submit a draft decision on the subject.

36. With respect to the increased resources for the Treasury Division, his delegation did not believe that the increase in the volume of work justified the increase of resources in real terms. Likewise, his delegation considered the amount for travel costs excessive, both under the section in question and in the rest of the proposed programme budget.

37. Mr. DE FACQ (Belgium) said that in paragraph 28B.10 of the proposed programme budget it was proposed that for the preparation of a financial manual the same level of resources should be made available for the 1980-1981 biennium as for 1979. He wished to know if that meant that the financial manual would actually be prepared during that period.

38. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia), also referring to the preparation of the financial manual, asked what had led to the delay and to the consequent failure to use the appropriations approved for the previous biennium.

39. Mr. RUEDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services), referring to the comments of the Advisory Committee and the Board of Auditors as quoted by the representative of the United States, said that the question of functional leadership in the financial sphere could not and should not be indissolubly linked to the establishment of one D-1 and one P-3 post. Of course, the task of providing functional leadership would be facilitated if a senior official was fully engaged in that work. However, functional leadership was a continuing responsibility and would, in no event, end by the next session.

40. With regard to the possibility of filling the posts in question, it had to be pointed out that it was not easy to find people with the necessary specialized knowledge of the functioning of the United Nations system and of financial affairs in general. However, one or two candidates had been pinpointed and, probably, towards the end of the current session, it would be possible to inform the Committee that the vacancies had been filled.

/...

(Mr. Ruedas)

41. Concerning the financial manual to which reference was made in paragraph 28B.10 of the proposed programme budget, he said that an amount of \$50,000 had been approved for 1979 for the services of two consultants for the preparation of such a manual. The preparation of the manual had been postponed, however, because the intention was to entrust the supervision of the work to the official who would occupy the D-1 post. It was hoped that it would be possible to fill that post in future but, if not, work on preparation of the manual would proceed. However, he predicted that the task would require more time, perhaps one or two years.

42. With respect to the increase in resources relating to the Treasury Division (table 28B.13 of the proposed programme budget), he said that that increase was attributable, not to an increase in staff (resource growth under that heading was barely \$1,000 to cover overtime), but to the cost of printing, and computerization of specific data.

Section 28 D. Office of General Services, Headquarters

43. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation would like the Committee to be provided with information on energy conservation measures.

44. Mr. DE FACQ (Belgium), referring to paragraph 28.43 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/34/7), said he would welcome comments from the representative of the Secretary-General on the question of communications. In that paragraph it was stated that the Advisory Committee was concerned at the lack of control over the use of communications, particularly long-distance telephone calls. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the necessary control procedures existed, but that they were widely disregarded. His delegation therefore believed that it was necessary to take certain steps in that regard.

45. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee under section 28.D of the proposed programme budget and expressed the hope that, at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General would be in a position to provide a detailed report to the Fifth Committee on practical measures taken to implement the proposals made by the Advisory Committee.

46. With regard to the appropriation requested for the rental and maintenance of premises (para. 28D.85 of the proposed programme budget), his delegation believed that the explanations given to justify resource growth were insufficient. There was no indication why additional office space was required, nor was the proportion of the total requirements to be financed respectively from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources shown.

47. Given the imperative need to economize, his delegation believed that the Administration should have made greater efforts to reduce the amount of \$858,500 requested in paragraph 28D.87 of the proposed programme budget (miscellaneous maintenance services). As to the acquisition of furniture and equipment, the figures reflected negative resource growth, largely as a result of the transfer to

/...

(Mr. Saddler, United States)

Vienna, but it appeared that in the forthcoming biennium purchases of such items would be maintained at the same level as in the biennium 1978-1979. In that respect, the United Nations would do well to take a step similar to that taken by the United States Government by freezing the purchase of furnishings and equipment with a view to making better use of existing supplies. Such a measure could result in considerable savings.

48. Miss GUIMARAES (Brazil) requested clarification as to the use to be made of the amount of \$58,500 requested in paragraph 28D.33 of the proposed programme budget for the printing of travel authorization and purchase order forms.

49. Mr. TIMBRELL (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services), replying to the question of the representative of the Philippines concerning energy conservation proposals, said that in the previous year an external consultant had carried out a study of the question and had formulated various recommendations, such as the installation of solar devices in the windows of the Secretariat building, the computerization of some electrical switching and the installation of special switching equipment. He forecast that the energy conservation measures proposed, for which funds were requested in the proposed budget, would generate savings allowing their costs to be recouped during the biennium 1980-1981.

50. In reply to the question from the Belgian representative concerning communications, he said that expenses of that kind had increased enormously throughout the United Nations system, owing to the decentralization of its activities and the introduction of better technology. The former Controller and he (Mr. Timbrell) had prepared a memorandum which had drawn the attention of senior United Nations officials to the need to control such expenditure. The problem stemmed from the fact that no one person could control such expenditure, since programme managers throughout the Organization had the authority to decide independently whether to make a long-distance call, send a telegram or use the diplomatic pouch. The possibility of introducing stricter controls on the use of such services was currently being studied, and a study on the progress achieved in that area would be submitted before the end of the coming biennium.

51. With regard to the question of the United States representative on the rental of office space, he pointed out that the Joint Inspection Unit had some years previously carried out a study of the Organization's space requirements; the basic recommendations of that study had been implemented. Since then the number of staff had grown steadily, and the space currently available was insufficient for existing needs; some 20,000 square feet of additional space were required. Since there was no room to spare, the only way of obtaining it was by renting. The space released as a result of staff transfers to Vienna had already been occupied or assigned.

52. During General Assembly sessions there also arose the problem of assigning space to visiting officials, including officials from the regional commissions, Geneva and the specialized agencies. An attempt was being made to solve that problem by using offices that were temporarily vacant owing to leave, sickness and other reasons.

/...

(Mr. Timbrell)

53. As far as the question of the United States representative on miscellaneous maintenance services was concerned, the relevant amount covered, inter alia, special cleaning services in rented premises, garbage removal, insect and rodent extermination services, carpet cleaning and replacement of air filters for the air conditioning system. Such expenditure was carefully monitored and it was thus extremely difficult to bring about savings.

54. As for the question by the representative of the United States concerning the acquisition of furniture and equipment, the United Nations did not, regrettably, have large quantities of equipment not in use. The amounts for that purpose had indeed been maintained at a level comparable to that of the preceding biennium, but the appropriations were intended largely to replace damaged, worn-out or obsolete equipment and would be used to buy new equipment only where there were valid reasons. Moreover, the amounts appearing in the proposed budget represented no more than 40 or 50 per cent of the sums originally requested.

55. Replying to the question of the representative of Brazil, he stated that the forms in question were purchased because they comprised several copies and could not be manufactured with the existing Headquarters machinery. The work was put out for tender and the lowest bid was accepted.

56. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) said he did not believe that it was necessary to provide office space for consultants. The Fifth Committee had in the past been told that the difference between short-term staff and consultants was that the former were provided office space while the latter were not. Consequently, the Organization ought perhaps simply to cease providing office space to consultants.

57. As for the space needed for visiting officials, the same problem also arose at most missions, which normally solved it by having the visiting official share an office with its habitual occupant. Such officials, since they had to spend most of their time in meetings, did not need a large amount of space; perhaps the United Nations was being too generous in that respect.

58. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that, according to the information provided by The Assistant Secretary-General, the used equipment intended for sale was in such poor condition that it seemed the Advisory Committee's estimate of an increase in income from the sale of used equipment (from \$225,000 to \$275,000) was over-optimistic.

59. Mr. TIMBRELL (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services), replying to the last question of the representative of the United States, said that many consultants did indeed work away from Headquarters, but they sometimes requested offices in the building in order to hold consultations that were necessary for their work; such consultations at times lasted several weeks. When consultants made such requests and when no instructions were received to the contrary, an attempt was made to accommodate them. In the case of visiting staff members, sometimes they too were asked to share offices with other staff members. However, when the staff members held posts at a certain level - for example,

/...

(Mr. Timbrell)

directors-general, executive heads of specialized agencies and so forth - it was very difficult for them to work under those conditions. In any case, that question did not affect over-all space requirements, because such staff members were generally assigned to offices that were temporarily empty.

60. With regard to the question asked by the representative of the Philippines about the sale of used equipment, he said that there was no market for a certain type of equipment in New York or Geneva but that it could be sold elsewhere.

61. Mr. MARTIN (Haiti) said that a clause could perhaps be included in the contracts of consultants to stipulate whether the consultant would work at or away from Headquarters.

62. Mr. RUEDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services) pointed out that consultants carried out a wide variety of tasks and that they frequently needed to consult the Secretariat official responsible for a particular project. Accordingly, they needed office space, and the United Nations should provide it.

Section 28 E. Administrative Management Services

63. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) said that, as he understood it, the Administrative Management Service (AMS) was to submit a comprehensive report on its activities during the year to the General Assembly. He would like to know whether that report would be available to the Committee, and, if so, when. His delegation thought that the Administrative Management Service could play a very important role in the functioning of the United Nations and greatly appreciated the work it had done in the past.

64. Mr. BROCHARD (France), referring to the information contained in paragraph 28E.9 of the proposed programme budget, asked which of the studies mentioned would have been completed and published by the end of 1979.

65. Mr. BEREDJICK (Administrative Management Service) indicated that the study referred to in subparagraph (a) of 28E.9 would be issued in provisional form at the end of the current week and would be sent to the respective department head and to the Under-Secretary-General for Administration, Finance and Management. The fact-finding work required for the study referred to in subparagraph (b) had been completed and the report would probably be issued in the spring of 1980; the fact that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was moving to Vienna and that certain staff members had been sent on missions had delayed that project. The fact-finding for the project referred to in subparagraph (c) had been completed in 1978, and the report had been completed. It had been submitted in provisional form to the erstwhile Controller, but, due to a variety of circumstances, it had been impossible to finalize the report. It should be possible to complete it entirely after the current session of the General Assembly.

66. With regard to the project mentioned in subparagraph (d), the situation was the same. The fact-finding had been completed in 1978, but the final version of the

/...

relevant report had not yet been prepared. Fact-finding for the study referred to in subparagraph (e) had almost been completed, and the report would be submitted in provisional form in mid-January 1980. As for the project mentioned in subparagraph (f), two parts of it had already been prepared. The provisional version of the report on the survey of copying services in the United Nations Secretariat, referred to in subparagraph (g), had already been issued. The Office of General Services and the Department of Conference Services were already considering the recommendations contained therein with a view to their implementation in the near future. Half of the project referred to in subparagraph (h) had been completed and published. The other half would be completed and published in the spring of 1980. Lastly, fact-finding for the project referred to in subparagraph (i) had been completed in 1978, but the secretariat of ESCAP was expected to provide further information in 1980. During the year, the Administrative Management Service had also conducted other surveys in response to urgent needs.

67. Replying to the question of the representative of the United States concerning the annual report of AMS, he said that, in accordance with a decision taken by the General Assembly, AMS was indeed required to submit a comprehensive annual report on its activities to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; ACABQ examined the report and drew the Fifth Committee's attention to those aspects which it thought the Fifth Committee should consider. AMS would submit its report on its 1978 activities before the end of November.

68. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America), referring to subparagraphs (c), (d) and (e) of paragraph 28E.9 of the proposed programme budget, which concerned, respectively, the Budget Division, the Accounts Division and the Treasury Division of the Office of Financial Services, said that, since the fact-finding had been completed in 1978, the information obtained must be brought up to date. His delegation was concerned about the timelag between fact-finding and project execution and, in its opinion, the reasons cited were not acceptable. His delegation earnestly appealed to the new Controller to complete those important reports as a matter of urgency.

69. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation did not understand why ACABQ was the only body that considered the report of the Administrative Management Service and why that report was not a working document of the Fifth Committee.

70. Mr. BEREDJICK (Administrative Management Service) reminded members that the General Assembly, itself, in resolution A/31/94 C, had decided that the Administrative Management Service would report to ACABQ. Prior to the adoption of that resolution, AMS had submitted an annual report to the General Assembly; if the Assembly wished to revert to that practice, it had only to adopt a decision to that effect.

71. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation might submit a draft decision along those lines.

/...

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

72. The CHAIRMAN announced that the list of speakers for the general debate on the report of the International Civil Service Commission (item 105) would be closed on Tuesday, 13 November, at 1 p.m.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.