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Tuesday, 4 December 1979  
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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 69th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PIRSON (Belgium)

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

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AGENDA ITEM 107: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST

(a) UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE AND UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER  
FORCE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 98: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981 (continued)  
(A/34/6, A/34/7)

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee in document A/SPC/34/L.11 concerning agenda items 48 and 49 (continued) (A/34/7/Add.12; A/C.5/34/45)

1. The CHAIRMAN reminded members of the Committee that, at its 68th meeting, the representative of Austria had asked several questions concerning the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), contained in document A/34/7/Add.12. Consideration of that matter had therefore been postponed until the current meeting, so that a representative of the Outer Space Affairs Division could be present in order to answer those questions.
2. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that in paragraph 11 of its report the Advisory Committee had questioned whether the recruitment from outside of three Deputy Secretaries-General of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was warranted, in view of the availability of internal expertise. He asked the representative of the Outer Space Affairs Division whether it was realistic to consider appointing members of the existing staff of the Division to those posts. If so, the Secretariat should do so in order to effect savings.
3. Mr. PEREK (Chief, Outer Space Affairs Division) said that the proposal to appoint three Deputy Secretaries-General had been made by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and then by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its capacity as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, and had been endorsed by the Special Political Committee. The proposal had not been made by the Secretariat, and he could not comment on action recommended by an intergovernmental body.
4. During the discussions in the various bodies, there had been concern that the different regional groups should be adequately represented in the secretariat of the Conference. Since one of the objectives of the Conference was to examine how the developing countries could benefit from space technology, those countries should be represented among the principal officers of the Conference. As he understood it, it was the intention of the Outer Space Committee to recommend that the Secretary-General of the Conference should be appointed from a developing country. Although the Secretariat could not provide any alternative solution to decisions taken by intergovernmental bodies, he assured members of the Fifth Committee that the Outer Space Affairs Division would do its utmost to fulfil the duties assigned to it.
5. In reply to the questions asked by the representatives of Austria and Tunisia at the 68th meeting, he noted that he had already replied to those aspects dealing with the appointment of three Deputy Secretaries-General. One of the other questions raised dealt with the proposed reduction of consultancy services by \$47,900 (A/34/7/Add.12, para. 17), which was the equivalent of approximately

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(Mr. Perek)

nine work-months. Such services were to have been used in preparing background papers, strengthening seminars in the context of the space applications programme and providing technical expertise to Member States. Space science and technology was such a vast field that no one could be an expert in more than one aspect of it. Accordingly, the Secretariat could not cope with all the aspects of the Conference without the assistance of the consultants requested by the Secretary-General. ACABQ had also recommended that the additional staff be reduced by one technical officer at the P-4/P-5 level, whose functions were described in paragraph 13 (b) of document A/C.5/34/45.

6. While the Secretariat regretted those reductions, it would do its best to carry out the preparations as planned, with due consideration for all the Advisory Committee's comments on ways of achieving savings, including the absorption of more additional work by members of the Outer Space Affairs Division (A/34/7/Add.12, para. 17). The Secretariat would report to the Preparatory Committee on the results achieved. The second report of the Preparatory Committee would be available before the General Assembly took up the relevant item at its thirty-fifth session. The Assembly would also have the benefit of the experience gained in the preparations undertaken in 1980 as well as the opinion and advice of the Secretary-General of the Conference and of his deputies. If it became apparent at that time that a lack of funds would adversely affect preparations for the Conference, the Secretary-General might have to approach the General Assembly with a new request, within the ceiling established for the Conference by the Preparatory Committee in 1979.

7. The CHAIRMAN read out paragraph 18 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/34/7/Add.12) and said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Fifth Committee agreed to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Special Political Committee, a total net additional appropriation of \$725,500 would be required in the programme budget for 1980-1981 consisting of \$687,900 under section 2B and \$37,600 under section 28D. Additional provision of \$91,500 would also have to be made under section 31 to cover the related staff assessment, to be offset by an increase in the same amount in the estimate of income from staff assessment under income section 1.

8. It was so decided.

9. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that, although his country supported the Conference and its purposes, had a vote been taken on that question, his delegation would have abstained. The Fifth Committee must try not to add to the already large budget of the United Nations, unless the additional appropriations could be offset by additional savings. Therefore, his delegation could not support the additional appropriation recommended to the General Assembly.

United Nations International School (A/C.5/34/36; A/34/7/Add.11)

10. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the ACABQ report (A/34/7/Add.11) had not been introduced by the Chairman of that Committee. He wondered whether there was any reason for the departure from normal procedure, and whether members of the Committee accepted it.

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11. The CHAIRMAN said that, according to the information he had been given, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had no comment to make on the report.

12. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the item concerning UNIS was not on the agenda of the Fifth Committee, and had no legal or factual relationship to the regular budget of the United Nations. The Secretariat was nevertheless trying to place the item on the Committee's agenda under the proposed programme budget for the biennium, despite the fact that UNIS was a private school in New York City with its own budget and administration. Any financial problems encountered by UNIS should not be solved by the regular budget of the United Nations. His delegation could not therefore understand why the Advisory Committee was recommending an appropriation of \$3,515,000 under section 28K of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981. Even the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/C.5/34/36) merely stated that the request for assistance for UNIS might be considered, without formulating any demand as such. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee was based on the statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration, Finance and Management - who was currently Chairman of the School's Board of Trustees - that a subsidy of \$3,815,000 was proposed. No indication was given of the basis on which the Under-Secretary-General had made that statement.

13. While the USSR was concerned about children's education and sympathetic to the needs of UNIS, it felt that the School's deficit should be solved in other ways, perhaps by voluntary contributions. The School should be placed on a sound financial footing which would render it self-supporting. It was not an organ of the United Nations. Moreover, the financial difficulties of the Organization would only be increased if the request was approved. His delegation therefore objected, in principle, to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee. If it were approved, the Soviet Union would not consider itself under any financial obligation with regard to expenditure from the programme budget for 1980-1981 for the School's requirements.

14. Mr. GALLEGOS (Chile) said that his delegation had given special attention to the situation described in paragraph 20 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/36) and to paragraph 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/34/7/Add.11). It had also noticed that the most recent assistance granted to the United Nations International School dated back to 1974, when the General Assembly had concurred with the ACABQ recommendation to grant a one-time appropriation of \$2 million. Five years had thus elapsed since the School had received financial support from the General Assembly.

15. The United Nations International School provided continuity in the education of children of diverse nationalities and constituted a centre in which the frequently difficult period of adjustment was facilitated. UNIS was also unique in that it provided specialized programmes and teachers for the children of the international community and created an atmosphere in which they could understand that their problems of transition and adjustment were shared. As a result, with the passage of time, the unity of its special international student body became a very unique type of friendship. All those factors were what gave the United Nations International School its special identity.

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(Mr. Gallegos, Chile)

16. Accordingly, in his delegation's opinion, that question should have priority among the considerations of the Fifth Committee, especially during the current International Year of the Child. His delegation was therefore pleased to support the recommendations in the report of the Advisory Committee (A/34/7/Add.11).

17. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) said that UNIS was the finest international school in the world, providing an international education for many children whose parents were members of the United Nations Secretariat and missions to the United Nations.

18. However, his delegation had serious reservations regarding the request by the Secretary-General for a subsidy of \$3.8 million for UNIS, a request which had received the endorsement of the Advisory Committee to the extent of \$3.5 million. His delegation was not sure that the Secretary-General's request for funds for UNIS was legal. Under Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations, only expenses of the Organization were to be borne by Member States. As UNIS was a private school accredited by the state of New York, it was his delegation's view that it was not legally a part of the United Nations. Moreover, no comprehensive financial statement had been provided to justify the request. The Fifth Committee was merely informed that the school needed \$1,315,000 to liquidate a deficit arising from fee reductions under the bursary programme, a deficit dating back to 1969; another \$1.5 million to relieve the annual budget from bursary assistance; and \$1 million to provide for structural maintenance and repair of the building. Neither the Secretary-General nor the Advisory Committee had made a convincing case that there was any real emergency. Instead of making a critical appraisal of the situation, the Advisory Committee had approved almost the entire request, merely stating that the appropriation should not be interpreted as establishing the principle that the School could look to the regular budget of the United Nations for continuing support. Such admonitions had been used before without achieving tangible results.

19. A detailed audit of the School's accounts should be made by the external auditors of the United Nations if the Organization's funds were to be used to finance it. The completed audit, including details on the maintenance of the building, should be submitted to the Fifth Committee at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. In the meantime, no decision should be made on the Secretary-General's rather vague request, and the whole matter should be deferred for consideration in 1980. His delegation would also like to reiterate its plea that the United Nations School, like other organizations, should operate with a balanced budget.

20. Mr. AKSOY (Turkey) said that UNIS was a unique institution for providing international education, and the United Nations had a moral obligation to enable it to function. It was already sponsored by some Governments in view of its multinational student body and teaching staff. If UNIS were a public facility, it would be subsidized as such. Indeed, the school had occasionally received subsidies from the United Nations, and its financial needs must be seen in the light of its relationship to the United Nations. Its financial burdens were increased by the nature of its international curriculum, and the need to provide

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(Mr. Aksoy, Turkey)

an education which also enabled students to preserve their national culture. At UNIS, students learned tolerance, which was the basis of international understanding. There could be no question of UNIS making economies which would adversely affect the quality of its programme or teaching staff. The main requirement at the present time was for UNIS to reduce its deficit, and it was important for it to do so without sacrificing its bursary programme. Financial assistance had already been given to UNIS under General Assembly resolution 2990 (XXVII) in view of the special relationship between UNIS and the United Nations, and his delegation was therefore ready to support the request for additional assistance.

21. Mr. LÖSCHNER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that UNIS contributed to the important task of international integration by educating children from almost all countries, in the true spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. It was in recognition of those values that the Federal Republic of Germany gave support to UNIS, and its Permanent Representative at the United Nations was an honorary trustee of UNIS. His country also seconded three teachers to UNIS, and contributed to the salary of a fourth.

22. Nevertheless, the request for financial assistance to the School from the regular budget of the United Nations called for careful examination. Similar requests had been made and approved in the past, and it was true that the financial difficulties of UNIS were partly due to the special structure of the School. However, the reasons for those difficulties were also well known. His delegation strongly recommended that the managers and the parents should seek to avoid a deficit, through rationalization and a stricter policy on bursaries. The General Assembly must maintain the principle that UNIS was, and would continue to be, a self-financing institution. Financial assistance to the School from the United Nations regular budget must not become a routine. On that understanding, his delegation was willing to approve ad hoc financial assistance to UNIS as recommended by the Advisory Committee.

23. Mr. BROCHARD (France) said that the problem of UNIS was an unusual one for the Committee. As a private institution, UNIS had no legal connexion with the United Nations, nor should the United Nations have to deal with its internal difficulties. However, there was a moral connexion, and such relationships often involved responsibilities, such as that of providing an education for children whose parents were directly connected with the Organization. Therefore, the School could not be treated on the same basis as a commercial enterprise, and his delegation had no objection to the United Nations demonstrating its support for UNIS by providing it with financial assistance from the regular budget. In most countries, there were private schools subsidized from public funds. His delegation therefore accepted the recommendations in paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/34/7/Add.11), with a view to reducing the School's deficit. That did not, however, mean that requests on an annual basis would be acceptable. Assistance to the School from the regular budget of the United Nations should be considered as exceptional, and he was confident that, through careful management, UNIS could become financially self-supporting.

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24. Mr. SWEGER (Sweden) said that his delegation fully agreed with the Secretary-General regarding the important role and high academic standards of UNIS. He could attest from personal experience that UNIS was the only school in the area able to accept the children of United Nations families at any time during the academic year. It was also unique in having children of more than 100 different nationalities, and offering the International Baccalaureate examination. Because it provided international education in the spirit of the United Nations, the Organization had a certain responsibility for its financial problems. Moreover, the existence of UNIS was a positive factor in the Organization's ability to recruit staff. His delegation therefore supported the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for financial assistance to the School.

25. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) said that he agreed with other speakers that UNIS played an important role in fostering international understanding, within a unique climate. His delegation therefore supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. However, he recalled that when UNIS had previously been granted assistance, by General Assembly resolution 2990 (XXVII), it had been on the understanding that the grant was a one-time subsidy only. He therefore hoped that UNIS would do its utmost, through prudent management, to solve its financial problems, thus obviating the need for future financial support. He fully supported the request of the United States delegation that the accounts of UNIS should be audited, and a report submitted to the Committee.

26. Mr. SESSI (Italy) said that, in studying the documents presented to the Committee in connexion with UNIS, his delegation had been struck by the fact that base salaries had risen by 34 per cent in five years, according to annex VI of document A/C.5/34/36, whereas fees had risen, on average, by only 3.86 per cent, according to annex VIII. That was undoubtedly the reason for the deficit. The General Assembly had previously approved subsidies amounting to millions of dollars for UNIS, and the Advisory Committee was now recommending an appropriation of \$3.5 million. The deficit must be eliminated if the School's financial management was to be satisfactory in future; however, the position adopted by the Advisory Committee was extremely timid. His delegation supported the view of the United States delegation that the financial position of UNIS should be investigated by external auditors, and reported to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

27. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that UNIS was a child of the United Nations. It had started in 1947 with a staff of 4 or 5, and now had over 200 staff. Its growth had led to increased needs and difficulties, for which the United Nations must assume responsibility. The Advisory Committee had therefore been right to consider the problem of its deficit. There was no doubt of the excellent standards reached by UNIS, and all the previous speakers had indicated their confidence in the School. The deficit was related to its bursary programme, which existed for the benefit of needy parents; if delegations felt that the bursary programme was a desirable feature of the School, they should support the request for financial assistance to eliminate the deficit. UNIS also needed assistance for the maintenance and repair of the building and modification of the facilities.

28. The Fifth Committee had been told of the financial problems of the School at previous sessions, and on those occasions had agreed to provide aid so that the

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(Mr. Lahlou, Morocco)

School could overcome its problems and continue to function. Now the Fifth Committee was being asked to help again because of further difficulties. No doubt assistance would be needed again in the future. His delegation would support the United States proposal that there should be an external audit of UNIS accounts. That would enable the Fifth Committee to check the reason for any deficit. His delegation would support the recommended appropriation but proposed that the UNIS accounts should be submitted every year like the accounts of other organs.

29. Mr. ALLAFI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that in principle his delegation sympathized with the content of the Secretary-General's report, but thought that more detail should have been given, particularly about the School's budget. In future the Secretary-General's reports on UNIS should contain a full and detailed picture of all the items of expenditure in its budget. Since the school was receiving aid from the regular budget of the United Nations, on a regular basis, he agreed that its accounts should be audited by the United Nations Board of Auditors.

30. His country was continuing to contribute to the School, within the limits of its ability, and hoped to increase its contribution in future. Since the School was an international United Nations school, tuition fees should be reduced to the lowest possible level. According to the figures in the Secretary-General's report, the tuition fees were very high; if they continued to rise, the School would simply become a private school like any other, and not a true United Nations school. He also noted that the teacher-student ratio was high, with one teacher for every 10 pupils, which appeared to be higher than the ratio in most private schools in developed countries. His delegation fully supported the mission of UNIS, and sympathized with the Secretary-General's arguments, but it had full confidence in the Advisory Committee, and therefore accepted its proposals in paragraph 10 of document A/34/7/Add.11.

31. Mr. KHAMIS (Algeria) said that UNIS played an important role in helping the diplomatic community and the United Nations staff. It appeared to be well organized from the point of view of teaching and management. Some delegations regarded the School as a private school, and questioned how far the United Nations should help it. But the present occasion would not be the first time that the General Assembly had dealt with the problem and decided to give assistance, so that there was a precedent for doing so. The School was a symbol - a truly international school with pupils from over a hundred countries and teachers from all parts of the world. It was doing excellent work and should be allowed to continue doing it, and his delegation would accordingly support the Advisory Committee's recommendations. He had every admiration for the management and teaching staff of the School, but he thought that perhaps the Director might try to tighten up the management, without prejudice to the purposes of the School, with a view to avoiding requests to the General Assembly for aid every two or three years.

32. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia) said that his delegation was rather disturbed at the situation of the International School. Tunisia highly appreciated the work the School was doing, and supported it. It had been said that, since the School was a private institution, and autonomous, it should not receive aid from the United Nations. However, that definition was incomplete. Over a hundred countries

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(Mr. Ayadhi, Tunisia)

were represented in the school body, and those children constituted a living image of the United Nations itself. Consequently the Organization could not forget or underestimate its moral obligation to UNIS and indeed, on previous occasions, the General Assembly had decided to help the School. The United States delegation had referred to Article 17 of the United Nations Charter, but the Tunisian delegation did not see any difficulty in regarding assistance to the School as an expense of the Organization, if the General Assembly decided to provide the money. He did not agree with those who appeared to think that the School's budget was not being well managed. He wondered whether additional aid might be forthcoming from New York sources. A number of countries, including the Arab States, were already helping substantially by providing teaching staff, and in that sense the international community was already assisting the School. However, it was to be hoped that the costs of the School could be reduced to a more reasonable level, since the cost per pupil seemed too high. No doubt that was the effect of the New York environment. He considered that it was reasonable to appeal to New York sources to provide more direct help for the School, without changing its private character.

33. There had been several previous grants to the School by the United Nations and, if another were made on the present occasion, it would no doubt not be the last. Accordingly, there should be careful reflection on the School's viability, and the cost of tuition, and a study should be made by the management of the School, and the General Assembly. He thought that the time had come to establish a formal link between the United Nations and the School, so as to avoid future arguments about whether it should be supported. His delegation was prepared to accept the Advisory Committee's recommendations. He added that he hoped no voting would take place at any night meeting, since not all delegations would be able to remain throughout the meeting.

34. Mr. UCHUNO (Nigeria) said that the praise for the School from various delegations was proof of its importance and its vital purpose. Although the School was not a legal creation of the United Nations, most Member States had supported the recommendation to assist it. His delegation felt that the School was absolutely necessary; it was aware of the difficulties of parents sent to countries or cities where it was difficult for their children to obtain an education. For the United Nations, as an international organization, it was very important to provide for the education of the children of Secretariat staff and delegations. Furthermore, it worried his delegation to see any tendency to criticize or reject recommendations by the Advisory Committee. Few schools were able to survive without any subsidy, and it would be impossible for UNIS to carry out its international function if its income was restricted to the fees charged. He asked if all possibilities of help from former pupils had been explored. Many of them no doubt had successful careers and would be glad to help their old school.

35. The United States proposal for an audit of the School's accounts did not imply any question of the honesty of its management. However, if the audit involved any additional expenditure for the School, he thought that the United Nations should bear the cost.

36. Several delegations had said that the teacher-pupil ratio was high, but that was inevitable. In addition, UNIS used several languages, and language services

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(Mr. Ūchūno, Nigeria)

were expensive. The character of the School meant that deficits must be endemic and that outside financing was required. Additional sources of finance should be sought in the form of subsidies from public bodies, endowments from countries, and contributions from former pupils. There had also been a call for prudent management of the School's finances, and a reduction of the generous bursary programme. If all those suggestions were considered, the School might be able to achieve self-sufficiency. However, his delegation supported the present request for a grant from the United Nations, on the basis of earlier precedents.

37. Mr. DEBATIN (Under-Secretary-General for Administration, Finance and Management) said that the question had been asked whether it would be legal to charge the costs of the School against the regular budget. The fact that UNIS had been established as a private institution under the law of New York State had nothing to do with that question. If the United Nations decided to support a charity anywhere in the world, the same question would arise: what was the purpose of the money in the context of the term "the expenses of the Organization". The answer was clear. Over the years, the General Assembly had dealt with the subject of UNIS and had endorsed its importance within the ambit of the United Nations. It had recognized, in resolution 1102 (XI) and 1228 (XII), that the continued functioning of the School was one of the important non-financial factors contributing to the recruitment and retention of international staff and, in resolution 1297 (XIII), that the provision of adequate accommodation for UNIS was in the best interest of the Organization. General Assembly resolution 2003 (XIX) had even approved in principle the construction of the School on part of Headquarters site, reserved for purposes of the Organization, although eventually the General Assembly had authorized acceptance of another site from New York City. That all showed that the expenses of the School fell within the ambit of the United Nations budget. That could hardly be questioned now, in view of the fact that the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly had approved decisions on the School in the past involving acknowledgement that its work coincided with the purport of United Nations activities. The education of children at UNIS enhanced the work of the Secretariat and the diplomatic missions and provided educational relief for staff members and diplomats. It was clear that the function of UNIS related to the tasks to be covered by the budget of the United Nations.

38. Some delegations wanted to know why they were asked to give substantial aid without being shown any budget. The Fifth Committee was not called on to judge the budget of the School, which had to be approved by the Board of Trustees of UNIS and was the Board's responsibility. The School was independent; it must be financially independent and administer its own funds. The United Nations was not being called on to cover the School's expenses, but to make a contribution to the Development Fund, which, when invested, would provide income to help the School's finances. The amount was high because it was a one-time grant and not a recurrent subsidy. It had been suggested that more information might be given about the grant, but he did not think it was appropriate to burden the Fifth Committee with details of the School's budget for various expenses.

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39. He fully agreed that it was important to be satisfied that the School's budget was not being mismanaged, but in fact internal audit services were making careful studies of the budget every year. He did not see what useful purpose would be served by an audit examination, since an audit would not indicate whether or not the Fifth Committee should support the School. There was no point in praising the teaching staff of UNIS without facing the fact that, if they could not be given increased salaries to meet higher costs without an increased deficit, the very existence of the School would be at risk. If the Fifth Committee refused to give the School a grant, the question was who would have to pay. It would not be the United Nations, but the students. The fact that the teacher-pupil ratio was high was proof that the teaching environment was different from other schools. The main reason for that was the language requirements, since the School taught Chinese, Russian, Spanish, French, Arabic and Latin. That was why it needed the money and, if it could not be obtained, there would have to be a cut in its educational programme and a lowering of its teaching standards.

40. The item under discussion was of a special nature; it was not a normal budget item submitted on behalf of the Organization, since UNIS was being supported by a grant to the Development Fund so that the income derived could help to meet the costs of the current budget. It might be asked whether no other means could be found to help the School to become viable. One way would be to increase the fees, but that would have a harmful effect, particularly on those who could not easily afford the fees. At present the School was proud to provide for all social classes. Or an effort could be made to raise funds from private sources. In fact that course had been vigorously pursued, and many institutions had been approached. Their attitude had been that, if UNIS was a United Nations school, the United Nations should provide what was needed. The funds given by the Ford Foundation were conditional on the United Nations providing an equal share of UNIS funding.

41. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) formally proposed that the question of a financial grant to UNIS be deferred until the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly and that the United Nations Board of Auditors be requested to study the accounts of UNIS and report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on the alleged deficit, its bursaries policy and maintenance requirements. That proposal should not be construed as a negative opinion with regard to the educational contribution of the School.

42. Mr. BLACKMAN (Barbados) said that some of the explanations given by the Under-Secretary-General were an oversimplification of a very serious situation. He did not agree that, because a grant had been given in the past, it should be given again. Nor did he agree that there was no need for an audit report. He noted from annex III of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/36) that, following the granting to UNIS of \$2 million for 1974/1975, when a warning had been issued to the effect that UNIS should endeavour to obtain more public donations, in three succeeding two-year periods those donations had shown a decline.

43. His delegation would support the recommended grant for UNIS with reservations, because other international schools in the New York area such as the French Lycée as well as international schools at other United Nations duty stations might also believe that they were eligible for grants. He hoped that the UNIS administration would not return to the General Assembly every four or five years to request grants.

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44. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia) said that he wished to request the Under-Secretary-General, also in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of UNIS, to give consideration to establishing an official link between UNIS and the United Nations. That link already existed, but if it were made official then the General Assembly might be more inclined to assume its responsibilities towards the School. He appealed to the representative of the United States to agree to the request for the grant for 1980 and then request the Chairman of the Board of Trustees to submit an audit report to the General Assembly at a later stage. Not only was that a logical move but the urgency of the situation required that the grant be made.

45. Mr. GIRALDO (Colombia) said that, while he agreed that UNIS should use and increase its own resources, he believed that any grant to the School by the General Assembly would be an investment. He found it strange that there was so little enthusiasm within the Organization for investment in a school to which it had a moral obligation. UNIS was the place in which the international community must begin teaching those who would inherit the future to observe the tenets of the United Nations Charter. He regretted the implication that money spent on education in UNIS was wasted. He suggested that in future UNIS might establish an educational fund to which graduates of the School could contribute.

46. Mr. JASARE (Sierra Leone) said that his delegation supported the appropriation for UNIS because the School was an entity within the United Nations system offering services which were not obtainable elsewhere.

47. He noted from annex IV of the report of the Secretary-General that, as at October 1979, there were 421 parents in the United Nations Secretariat receiving grants compared to 132 among delegations. He wondered what criterion was used to award grants. He also wished to know how much aid was given in the period 1974-1979, by geographical region, to those not entitled to the education grant, including bursaries to staff and delegation members who needed help.

48. Mr. BELYAEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation shared the view that there had been no grounds for including the item in the agenda. He regretted that it was being discussed when time was of the essence and the Committee had other more important matters to consider. The question could have been taken up earlier when the Committee had been working at a more leisurely pace. He also agreed that, if it was to be considered in the Committee, then more information should be forthcoming. The documents did not clearly demonstrate that the institution under consideration was a United Nations entity. It was true that the children of people attached to the United Nations attended the School and that the principles of the Charter were taught there, but that could be said of several schools.

49. It was stated that children from 115 nationalities within the United Nations attended the School. The fact remained that there were 42 nationalities in the United Nations without children at UNIS. It was also stated that 57 per cent of the children there were connected with the United Nations. The Fifth Committee should determine who those children were, i.e., children of staff members, of members of delegations or of staff of specialized agencies. Much more detailed information was required to determine the School's relationship with the United Nations. His delegation therefore was unable to support the request for a grant which had financial implications for the United Nations budget and, if that request were approved, his delegation would not contribute to financing it.

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50. Mr. DEBATIN (Under-Secretary-General for Administration, Finance and Management) said that UNIS was open to children from all countries and wished to make itself available to all missions to the United Nations. If delegation members chose not to send their children to UNIS, that was not the fault of the School. Places in the School were filled only after they had been offered to United Nations staff members and the diplomatic community at large.

51. He agreed with the point raised by the representative of Tunisia and wished to point out that an official link did exist between the School and the United Nations. The statute of UNIS stated that it had been established to assist staff of the United Nations and delegations, especially expatriate staff. The 18 members of the Board of Trustees had to be chosen from the Secretariat, missions, or specialized agencies. Six were appointed by the Secretary-General, six elected by parents and six co-opted from among staff members. Those 18 members then elected the officers of the Board. Thus the official link to the United Nations was confirmed.

52. With regard to the points raised by the representative of Sierra Leone, UNIS had established a programme of fee remission to parents who did not receive the education grant. The Board of Trustees, however, had decided to discontinue that programme owing to the financial situation. The bursary programme to assist needy parents was still in operation. That programme was based exclusively on need and each application was carefully scrutinized. The figures requested by the representative of Sierra Leone were readily available and he was prepared to discuss the matter with him privately at a later date.

53. With regard to the statement made by the representative of Barbados, he wished to point out that the report of the Secretary-General was guided by the General Assembly decision which had recognized the role of UNIS as a factor in the recruitment and retention of international staff and had expressed the belief that the School's financial solvency should be assured.

54. The accounts of the School were carefully audited every year. He was not opposed to the United States proposal for an external audit but he did not see how that would affect the decision which had to be made in the Committee. If the request for a grant to the School were denied, then the only ones who would be punished would be the present generation of pupils.

55. The CHAIRMAN said that the decision on the United States proposal would be taken at the next meeting; in the meantime, delegations might wish to hold consultations. In reaching their decisions, he would suggest that delegations study carefully paragraphs 10 to 12 of the ACABQ report (A/34/7/Add.11).

56. Paragraph 20 of the report of the Secretary-General should be interpreted in the light of the statement made by the Under-Secretary-General to ACABQ that a grant of \$3,815,000 was being proposed under the regular budget of the United Nations. It was on that basis that ACABQ had made its recommendations in paragraphs 8 to 12 of its report.

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57. Mr. JASABE (Sierra Leone) thanked the Under-Secretary-General for the clarifications he had given and said that, since his own request for a break-down of bursaries and grants by geographical region had been made in the Committee, he would prefer the reply to be given in the Committee and not in private.

AGENDA ITEM 107: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(a) UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE AND UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/34/582 and Corr.1, A/34/688; A/C.5/34/L.30)

58. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.30, concerning the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East.

59. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, as during previous sessions of the General Assembly, his delegation had very serious reservations concerning the suspension of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations. In his delegation's opinion, that particular deficit stemmed from the fact that, because of the special circumstances involved, some States were not paying their contributions. Accordingly, that deficit must be eliminated, not by violating the Financial Regulations but by attacking the substance of the problem itself, while strictly adhering to the rules set forth by the Security Council and the General Assembly. No exceptions should be made to the Financial Regulations and, moreover, any funds not spent should be credited to Member States, in accordance with the Financial Regulations. Therefore, his delegation would vote against draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.30.

60. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) said that his delegation regretted the fact that draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.30 was necessary because of the unjustified withholding of contributions by certain Member States. However, he was pleased to note that the draft resolution ensured that those who withheld their contributions would not benefit from doing so and his delegation would therefore support it.

61. Mr. ALLAFI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation had stated its position on that matter previously. On the basis of that position, it would not participate in the vote on draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.30.

62. Mr. WANG Chengwei (China) said that, in accordance with the position which his delegation had stated previously in connexion with the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East, his delegation would not participate in the vote on draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.30 nor would it take part in the financing of those forces.

63. Mr. MAKOSSO (Congo) said that, for the same reasons as had been explained in October 1979, his delegation would not participate in the vote on draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.30.

64. At the request of the representative of Canada, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.30.

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In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Iraq, Mongolia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Mauritania, Poland, Romania, Syrian Arab Republic.

65. Draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.30 was adopted by 69 votes to 9, with 6 abstentions.

66. Mr. LÖSCHNER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.30 in order not to add to the financial burden of the troop-contributing countries, which was already very heavy because of the withholding of contributions by certain countries. However, his delegation thought that the procedures described in paragraphs 1 and 2 were anomalous.

67. Mr. KHAMIS (Algeria) said that, had his delegation been present during the voting on draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.30, it would have abstained.

The meeting rose at 11.10 p.m.