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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 59th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (Cameroon)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 123: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued) (A/40/7/Add.13, A/40/652 and A/40/673 and Corr.1 (English only) and Add.1; A/C.5/40/5 and Add.1, A/C.5/40/6 and Corr.1, A/C.5/40/25, 27, 30, 38, 39, 59 and Corr.1)

(a) COMPOSITION OF THE SECRETARIAT: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

(b) RESPECT FOR THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

(c) OTHER PERSONNEL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

1. Mr. OSMAN (Somalia) expressed support for the International Civil Service Commission and hoped that the organizations of the common system would, without delay, implement the various recommendations on personnel questions put forward by the Commission over the years. He also commended the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services on the work done by OPS, in particular the efforts to devise a viable career development system for the staff of the Secretariat which he hoped, would be instituted shortly.

2. Turning to the composition of the Secretariat, he noted that considerable progress had been made towards achieving equitable geographical distribution. If that momentum could be maintained, the remaining disparities could be expected to disappear in the near future. While a numerical balance might be achieved, however, the developing countries might not gain the access to decision-making posts that was necessary to achieve a qualitative balance. The criteria for calculating desirable ranges placed heavy emphasis on the ability to contribute financially to the Organization, yet financial power was not a reliable indicator of the ability to contribute intellectually. While the current system for calculating desirable ranges allowed a margin of flexibility, the JIU proposals to fix the geographical distribution quota rigidly at the mid-point of the present range would seem to create an unnecessarily restrictive framework.

3. His delegation shared the reservations of the Group of 77 concerning the proposal to extend recruitment by competitive examination to the P-3 level. Even if examinations at that level could be organized in 20 countries each year, nationals from a country like Somalia would be eligible to take the examination only every eight years. Moreover, if the emphasis in scheduling examinations continued to be placed on underrepresented countries, as currently applied with posts at the P-1 and P-2 levels, his country would be automatically excluded from recruitment for all entry-level and mid-level positions. The proposal also raised another problem: normally, positions at the P-3 level required several years of work experience in addition to sound academic qualifications. Candidates for such posts already had a clear performance record and it was open to question whether a formal examination would be as effective as a candidate's employment record for identifying the qualities essential for members of an independent international civil service.

(Mr. Osman, Somalia)

4. It was particularly discouraging to note from the report of the Secretary-General on the status of women in the Secretariat that there were very few African and Arab women on the staff. Special recruitment measures could surely be taken to remedy that situation, especially when many African and Arab women were now obtaining advanced qualifications and many more had assumed positions of responsibility in their own societies. His delegation therefore appreciated deeply the specific recruitment activities planned by the Secretary-General and supported the priorities established in the action programme, which reflected the need to take full account of the principle of equitable geographical distribution and to increase the recruitment of women from regions or countries which had relatively few women on the Secretariat staff. His delegation also welcomed the creation of the Office of the Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat and the clear delineation of the Co-ordinator's functions. The action programme for women had been designed to complement the work of OPS and his delegation was confident that such an arrangement would bring long-lasting benefits.

5. In principle, his delegation supported fully the proposal to establish an office of Ombudsman in the Secretariat. However, an Ombudsman could not efficiently replace the present network of individual grievance panels at the various duty stations. In his view, such panels must continue to exist at the local level, while the Ombudsman's role must be to offer informal avenues of conflict resolution. Given the present overload of cases before the various administrative review bodies, a mechanism to prevent formal litigation was certainly needed and his delegation looked forward to hearing specific proposals to that end at the forty-first session.

6. Mr. McDOWELL (New Zealand) observed that personnel questions were far more than a question of money, and that countries such as his own, which favoured multilateralism and wished to see the United Nations play an effective role in the world, must take a closer interest in the Secretariat. The role of the Secretariat in forging a world characterized by peace, freedom and justice must not be underestimated. Member States took the basic political decisions which would ensure that the Organization survived, but the Secretariat's role was also vital. Ensuring that the Secretariat was independent and impartial in an Organization made up of independent sovereign States was not an easy task, yet quality, motivation and morale of the Secretariat depended on its independence.

7. An international Secretariat was only as good as its recruitment policies and procedures. The medium-term plan of recruitment, 1983-1985, which had been developed to ensure a more equitable distribution of posts on the basis of sex and geographical region, was complex and required a high degree of co-operation between Member States and within the Secretariat. The plan had achieved some success, but it was a source of concern that none of the plan's specific goals was going to be achieved. The Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services had commented on the continuing obstacles to equitable geographical distribution. Of those, resistance within the Secretariat to the concept of human resources planning should be the easiest to overcome, yet that did not seem to be the case. His delegation urged the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to overcome that problem: human resources planning was viewed as a vital management tool in the public services of many Member States and the United Nations should view it in the same way.

(Mr. McDowell, New Zealand)

8. The competitive examination system had proved to be a fair and effective recruitment tool which contributed to the achievement of equitable geographical distribution and the maintenance of high standards of competence. His delegation therefore supported the recommendation to extend its use to recruitment at the P-3 level. It was not only important to recruit top-quality men and women, however: their skills must also be used to the full, for the good of individuals and of the Organization as a whole. The proposed career development system was an important step in that direction and would help to provide a coherent framework for improved staff fulfilment and greater job satisfaction. His delegation hoped therefore that the system would be in place by 1987.

9. The employment of women in the United Nations had significance beyond immediate concerns of efficiency. The United Nations should practise the ideals proclaimed in the Charter and serve as a role model for the international community. His delegation shared the concerns expressed by Canada at the underrepresentation of women in senior positions in the Secretariat, the discrepancies in promotion prospects and the failure to meet recruitment and employment targets for women. While the creation of the Office of the Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat could not solve those problems, it was a start. Some delegations had suggested that the appointment of a co-ordinator could not help to alter attitudes towards women in the Secretariat but in his delegation's view, it was the problem of attitudes that made such a measure necessary. As the Co-ordinator herself had predicted, overcoming problems of attitude might take years, but behaviour must be tackled rapidly: bureaucratic measures were sometimes needed to create realities out of a dream. His delegation welcomed the positive co-operation that had developed between the Co-ordinator and the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services, which clearly refuted the prediction that they would be unable to work together successfully and without duplication of effort. His delegation remained concerned that, while women constituted 43.8 per cent of all staff in the United Nations, 82.6 per cent of them were to be found in the General Service and service-oriented categories and very few in the upper echelons either in New York or in the regional commissions. It therefore welcomed the action programme proposed by the Secretary-General and was convinced that General Assembly resolutions on women's participation in the work of the organization were fully compatible with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. His delegation noted that it was only during the years 1980-1982, when special measures had required that departments fill two out of every five vacancies with women, that there had been real movement in the number of women employed in posts subject to geographical distribution. His delegation therefore welcomed the decision to set an overall target of 30 per cent for the recruitment of women to professional posts in the biennium 1986-87.

10. His delegation supported the extension of the appointment of the Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat and the establishment of a special Steering Committee to help implement the action programme. Those measures were necessary and all delegations should support the Secretary-General's recommendations.

(Mr. McDowell, New Zealand)

11. With regard to the feasibility of establishing an office of Ombudsman in the United Nations, such an office had existed in New Zealand for several years and had proved valuable and effective in helping to resolve complaints on a very wide range of issues. While it would be premature to reach a final decision on the value of such an office in the United Nations, his delegation looked forward to the presentation of detailed proposals on the subject at the forty-first session.

12. Miss RAMOS (Honduras), referring to the participation and representation of women in the Secretariat, noted that the employment conditions of women in the United Nations had not changed significantly since the General Assembly, in its resolution 2715 (XXV), had expressed the hope that the United Nations would set an example with regard to the opportunities it afforded for the employment of women at senior and other levels in the Professional category. Despite efforts to achieve the 25 per cent target for the representation of women in posts subject to geographical distribution, the percentage achieved was still only 23.1. Furthermore, nearly three out of every four women holding Professional posts in the Secretariat were in service-oriented occupations such as administration and languages and women in senior positions represented a tiny minority. That was a far cry from the principle enshrined in Article 8 of the Charter.

13. As a developing country, Honduras attached great importance to women's participation in development, for women represented 50 per cent of the labour force essential to a country's progress. Honduran women participated in all branches of government and private enterprise and were actively involved in efforts to enhance the country's productivity and usher in a brighter future. Her delegation therefore welcomed the action programme set forth in document A/C.5/40/30 and hoped that the Secretariat, and Member States, would take the necessary steps to implement a programme which envisaged specific initiatives for enhancing women's participation and putting into practice the principle of equality. Improving the situation of women in the Secretariat was in fact one of the most effective means of increasing the efficiency of the United Nations. Her delegation would therefore sponsor the draft resolution on the employment of women in the United Nations.

14. The best way to improve the status of women in the Organization was to bring about a change in the current attitudes towards women, which created a major obstacle to the implementation of any plan of action for them. Her delegation supported the action programme and the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women and urged Member States to work with the Co-ordinator to bring about the necessary changes in women's status in the Organization.

15. Mr. RYDZKOWSKI (Poland) said that his delegation appreciated the statements made by the Secretary-General's representatives on personnel questions and welcomed their continued efforts to improve personnel conditions. However, since 1985 was a programme budget year, it wondered whether the OPS had been unduly diverted from its main tasks in order to prepare reports on topics which did not require detailed consideration until 1986. In general, his delegation supported the idea that personnel questions should be considered every two years, and suggested that a decision to that effect should embody a resolution.

(Mr. Rydzkowski, Poland)

16. His delegation appreciated the results achieved in implementing the medium-term plan of recruitment, 1983-1985; for the first time, the goal of filling 40 per cent of all vacancies by nationals of unrepresented or underrepresented countries had been achieved. The figure of 54.6 per cent was encouraging, as was the fall in the number of unrepresented Member States from 17 to 11 and the fact that 100 Member States were within range. But some regional groups were not adequately represented; some eastern European States were permanently underrepresented. As shown in table 9 of document A/40/652, Poland was currently below the mid-point of its desirable range. His delegation urged speedy recruitment of nationals from such underrepresented countries; he drew attention to the proposal by the delegation of the German Democratic Republic about a one-year crash programme for that purpose.

17. It was to be hoped that the efforts of the Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat would bring about decisive improvements. His delegation thought most of the Co-ordinator's proposals acceptable but wished to analyse them carefully before endorsing them. A key factor in enabling OPS to overcome problems in implementing the relevant United Nations resolutions was full, active co-operation by Member States.

18. His delegation's stance with regard to the efficiency, competence and integrity of United Nations staff, and its position of principle about the ratio of permanent to fixed-term contracts, were well known. It was disappointing that the percentage of fixed-term contracts had fallen to 38.5; that trend should be reversed forthwith.

19. The introduction of competitive examinations for recruitment at the P-3 level would hinder, not help, the efforts to fulfil the recruitment plan. While not opposed to internal promotion, his delegation thought that a balance should be struck between the interest of individuals and that of States. Internal promotion had so far merely raised the number of over-represented States.

20. With regard to strengthening of OPS, his delegation endorsed the views expressed by JIU in document A/40/673. General Assembly resolutions on personnel questions applied not only to that Office but to the entire Secretariat structure; if they were to be fully implemented everywhere, therefore, OPS must be given full authority with regard to all personnel matters. His delegation was ready to co-operate fully with the Office for that purpose.

21. On the question of press reports about discriminatory measures by the host country, the United States, against nationals of other countries, including Poland, his delegation reserved the right to speak on the matter when it saw fit. It was a matter of record that no such discrimination was ever applied in Poland against representatives of other States.

22. Mr. MOUSSAKI (Congo) said that, as a result of appointments made between 1 July 1984 and 30 June 1985 to the United Nations Secretariat, the number of unrepresented and underrepresented Member States had fallen to 13 and 15 respectively - a sign of progress. The medium-term plan of recruitment, 1983-1985, would have achieved its target but for certain adverse factors such as the reluctance of certain Member States and some resistance made possible by the Secretariat's decentralized structure, which meant that vacant posts could often be filled on the basis of personal choice rather than by reference to OPS. His delegation strongly disapproved of such practices, which should be halted; the Secretary-General should report to the General Assembly, at its forty-first session, naming the officials and departments responsible, in order that the Fifth Committee could take appropriate action. Sanctions should be applied against the guilty parties; the Charter and the spirit of the United Nations could not go on being flouted so.

23. The apparent ease of horizontal transfer of staff at the D-1 level and above was similarly disturbing. Delegations which claimed that equitable geographical distribution could foster incompetence should ponder the degree of incompetence stemming from such high-level transfers.

24. Some of the problems faced in implementing the medium-term plan of recruitment stemmed from the fact that OPS lacked the authority and structure to give full effect to its programmes. The status of the Office should be upgraded. OPS could not be given responsibilities without having commensurate authority; indeed, the previous Secretary-General had suggested that OPS should be attached to his cabinet. The General Assembly, too, in resolution 39/245, had again requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the role and emphasize the authority of OPS, but nothing had been done towards that end.

25. As at 30 June 1985 the proportion of women in posts subject to geographical distribution had been 23.1 per cent, compared to 23.6 per cent one year earlier; the target of 25 per cent had thus not been met. Women continued to suffer injustice, and he condemned the persistence of the outmoded attitudes which in general were the cause. His delegation, which had helped to draft General Assembly resolution 39/245, was concerned about the status of women; it welcomed the statements made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services and the Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women, and urged them to persist in their efforts, in the spirit of that resolution. But his delegation was not in favour of setting up a committee to act as an inspection unit; suitable machinery already existed within the Organization and nothing should be done which might lead to duplication and inhibit the initiative of OPS.

26. His delegation was in favour of a career structure for Secretariat personnel and could support the introduction of competitive entrance requirements, in so far as they would shield OPS from outside pressures; it had no objection to the extension of the system to the P-3 level, although that should be applied with some flexibility.

27. Mr. MUDHO (Kenya) said that, as had again been shown during the Assembly's current session, the recital of the United Nations' shortcomings included no suggestion that Member States themselves might to some extent be responsible; blame was often unfairly imputed to the Secretariat, although the latter served the Member States extremely well - as the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management had reminded the Committee. The proportion of expenditure on staff costs was no more than commensurate with the extent and the quality of the services rendered. It was certainly to be hoped that the persistent references to the cost of United Nations programmes did not imply that the Secretariat personnel should suffer redundancies or see their salaries and other benefits adversely affected. The conditions of service of United Nations personnel, including certain privileges and immunities, were of primary importance for the objectivity and independent discharge of their functions as stipulated in Article 101 of the Charter. At the same time, United Nations staff were expected, pursuant to Article 100 of the Charter, to refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officials responsible only to the Organization; unfortunately, the conduct of some staff members in that regard had not been beyond reproach.

28. His delegation was grateful for the statement made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services and for the way in which he had carried out his task, including the progress made in securing a more equitable geographical distribution of posts while observing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. It disagreed with certain suggestions that those standards were incompatible with equitable distribution of posts.

29. His delegation endorsed the approach and intentions reflected in the Assistant Secretary-General's statement, particularly the measures to establish an efficient career development system. OPS must, of course, be endowed with the status and authority it needed to achieve those purposes.

30. His delegation looked forward to receiving the Secretary-General's report on the system of competitive examination for recruitment to the P-1 and P-2 levels, and was keeping an open mind about its extension, on an experimental basis, to the P-3 level.

31. Having heard the views expressed about procedures for resolving staff disputes and grievances, he found it disquieting that executive heads away from Headquarters were exercising functions rightly within the purview of OPS. His delegation requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on steps taken to improve the existing procedures, particularly in reference to powers exercised by the executive heads.

32. With reference to population as a factor in determining desirable ranges and to the feasibility of establishing an office of Ombudsman, his delegation would reserve its comments until the Secretary-General had reported on the suggestions mentioned in documents A/C.5/40/6 and A/C.5/40/38.

(Mr. Mudho, Kenya)

33. Despite the clear provisions of Articles 8 and 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter, the status of women in the Secretariat left much to be desired. His delegation therefore welcomed the appointment of a Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat. It urged OPS to take up the Co-ordinator's findings; but it remained open-minded about percentages and targets, bearing in mind that equity was as important as numerical targets and that due regard must be given to the provisions of Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter and to the importance of recruiting women on as wide a geographical basis as possible. The statements by the Co-ordinator and the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services bore welcome signs that the two offices were complementary, not competitive.

34. Mr. LAHIONEL (Algeria) said, with reference to document A/40/673, that although his delegation shared the Joint Inspection Unit's opinion on the importance of the medium-term plan of recruitment for 1983-1985 and agreed that the existing system of desirable ranges would not bring about the equitable geographical distribution of posts in the Secretariat, it could not accept the JIU recommendation to modify the existing system of ranges so that the current mid-points would become the upper levels, with the lower levels being 10 per cent below. That recommendation did not seem to be in line with Article 101 of the Charter.

35. Developing countries as a whole were underrepresented and penalized by the existing system of desirable ranges, which resulted in the current distribution of posts, which was neither geographical nor equitable. The Inspectors had not been involved in the 1968 compromise on the weighting of the three factors by which distribution was determined, but his delegation had expected a much more profound analysis from them in anticipation of the review of the desirable ranges at the next session of the General Assembly.

36. According to the Inspectors, an equitable quantitative geographical distribution would only be achieved when all Member States reached the mid-point of their respective desirable ranges. In his delegation's opinion, the system recommended by JIU would not achieve equitable geographical distribution and might even accentuate the existing imbalance. Balance would be better served by a method which gave greater weight to the basic notion of the sovereign equality of all Member States, as opposed to the level of a State's assessed contributions. To that end, JIU might, inter alia, consider the report of the Secretary-General on the application of the population factor in the system of desirable ranges (A/C.5/40/6). The Secretariat, for its part, could draw up a report for the forty-first session of the General Assembly on a new distribution which gave preponderance to the membership factor.

37. On the subject of the situation of women in the United Nations Secretariat, his delegation shared the views of the staff representatives contained in document A/C.5/40/59. Statistics showed that the number of appointments and promotions of women had stagnated or even fallen. Algeria had to support the principle of

(Mr. Lahionel, Algeria)

priority for women in recruitment and asked the Secretary-General to redouble his efforts to have 25 per cent of the posts subject to geographical distribution filled by women, as provided by resolutions 33/143 and 35/210. His delegation would support the proposed programme of action to improve the situation of women and was conscious of the need for every Member State to give OPS active help in finding suitable candidates among their citizens. The plan of action should not be limited to achieving a numerical relationship between men and women employed in the Secretariat, but should also take due account of the situation of women from developing countries. His delegation hoped that serious consideration would be given to measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the Secretariat, while at the same time taking care not to perpetuate existing inequalities.

38. His delegation was surprised that, despite resolution 39/245, there had been no report on the subject of strengthening personnel services. Only JIU had mentioned the erosion of the powers of OPS as one of the reasons for the failure of the medium-term plan of recruitment. His delegation supported the JIU recommendations and urged the Secretariat to consider the problem so as to spare the Committee from adopting repetitive resolutions which often remained without effect for reasons still to be revealed.

39. The design and implementation of the career development system (A/C.5/40/27) would require more time, even though the legitimate concerns of staff representatives in document A/C.5/40/39 called for the adoption of such a system as soon as possible. He noted the Secretary-General's undertaking in paragraph 27 of his report (A/C.5/40/27) to make every effort to ensure that implementation of the plan would begin in 1987.

40. A further matter for concern was the persistent violation by some States of the privileges and immunities of international civil servants. All States should scrupulously respect the provisions of international instruments protecting international civil servants, whatever their nationality.

41. Turning to the question of the competitive examinations system in the Secretariat (A/C.5/40/39), he wondered if the Secretariat could provide, by the end of the session, a comparison of the costs involved with those of the system of recruitment by interview. Pending the submission of such a comparison, his delegation was inclined to accept the conclusions reached by ICSC and JIU on the competitive examination system and could contemplate the extension of that method to the P-3 level as a means of promotion within the Secretariat.

42. In conclusion, his delegation wished to emphasize the great importance of the effective implementation of General Assembly resolutions, whether on the situation of women in the Secretariat or on the strengthening of OPS.

AGENDA ITEMS 116 AND 117: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1986-1987 AND
PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.47/Rev.1, as orally revised, concerning agenda item 92 (b) (A/C.5/40/66)

43. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee was recommending an additional appropriation of \$191,000 for the requirements arising out of the draft resolution submitted by the Third Committee concerning the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and an amount of \$45,500 under section 31, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1.

44. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.47/Rev.1, as orally revised, an additional appropriation of \$191,000 would be required under section 27 of the programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987. An additional appropriation of \$45,500 would also be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by an equivalent amount in income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

45. Mrs. SHEAROUSE (United States of America) said that it had been clearly understood that the mandate for the weekly radio programme for women was to be terminated at the end of the United Nations Decade for Women. The request to reinstate that activity could only be regarded as a budget "add-on" that her delegation could not support.

46. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the Chairman's proposal.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Israel, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Italy, Japan, Portugal.

47. The Chairman's proposal was adopted by 86 votes to 13, with 3 abstentions.

48. Mr. ORSATELLI (France) said that although his delegation did not disagree in principle with the radio programmes, it considered that their costs should be absorbed under the relevant section of the budget, for which the existing appropriation was quite sufficient.

49. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that his delegation likewise had no objection to the radio programmes but had voted against the proposal because the costs involved should be met by redeploying resources already approved for DPI, not by an additional appropriation.

50. Mr. PAVLOVSKY (Czechoslovakia) said that, had he been present during the voting, he would have voted against the proposal.

51. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that his delegation had abstained not because it objected to the substance of the proposal but in order to be consistent with its abstention on section 27 of the budget. Given the generous appropriation already approved, it should be possible to absorb the activity in question, whose costs were comparatively small.

52. Mr. HOLBORN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation's negative vote was based on budgetary considerations.

53. Mr. KHALEVINSKIY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation was not opposed to the substance of the programme but considered that costs should be met from within existing resources.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.70 concerning agenda item 12 (A/C.5/40/78)

54. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the draft resolution would give rise to conference-servicing requirements amounting to \$518,700 if both intersessional meetings of the Working Group were held in New York, or \$430,100 if they were held in Geneva.

55. Mr. MUDHO (Kenya), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, said that, in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 35/10 A, the Committee on Conferences had considered draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.70, paragraph 2 of which called on the Working Group again to hold an intersessional meeting of two weeks' duration in New York, immediately after the Economic and Social Council's first regular session of 1986. The Working Group was serviced by the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva. For it to meet in New York would be a departure from the

(Mr. Mudho, Kenya)

principle, established in paragraph 4 of resolution 31/140, that United Nations bodies should meet at their established headquarters.

56. There had been an extensive exchange of views on the matter in the Committee on Conferences. Some delegations had argued that for the Working Group to meet in New York could not be regarded as a departure from the "headquarters" principle because it was a subsidiary body of the Third Committee and as such should be considered as being based in New York, where the Third Committee as the substantive organ concerned had decided it should meet. However, other delegations had felt that there were no substantive reasons why the Working Group should meet in New York rather than at Geneva where its servicing secretariat was based.

57. The Committee on Conferences had decided to advise the Fifth Committee that a decision to hold the intersessional meetings in New York would be a departure from the principle laid down in resolution 31/140. Since no substantive reasons had been submitted for the proposed departure, the Committee on Conferences, as the technical body mandated to consider the conference-servicing implications of proposals, was not in a position to make any recommendation on the issue.

58. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.70 would give rise to conference-servicing requirements estimated, on a full-cost basis, at \$518,700. Any additional appropriation which might be required would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements to be submitted before the close of the session.

59. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/40/L.35 concerning agenda item 37 (A/C.5/40/86)

60. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was to have taken place from 10 to 21 November 1986. Proposals before the General Assembly would defer the Conference until 23 March to 10 April 1987. The Advisory Committee had had an exchange of views with representatives of the Secretary-General and with the Secretary-General of the Conference. The Advisory Committee was satisfied that resources appropriated for the Conference were being efficiently administered and recommended approval of an amount of \$252,000, as requested in paragraph 18 of document A/C.5/40/86. Conference-servicing costs would be \$650,900 for 1986, which would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to be submitted to the General Assembly at its current session, and \$980,400 for 1987, to be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-first session.

61. Mr. KASTOFT (Denmark) requested that discussion of the item should be postponed. It had not appeared on the agenda for the meeting and he required time for consultations.

62. The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to that request.

63. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/40/L.26-L.32 concerning agenda item 35 (continued)

64. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote after the vote (see A/C.5/40/SR.58), said that his country's loathing for apartheid had been expressed many times but his delegation had voted against the programme budget implications of the draft resolutions as a whole because certain of them contained baseless accusations and financed hostile activities against Israel. If separate votes had been taken on the programme budget implications of the individual draft resolutions, his delegation would have voted as it had subsequently done in the General Assembly.

65. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden) said that he had voted in favour of the recommendation on the financial implications of the draft resolutions as a whole because of his country's fundamental opposition to the policy of apartheid. The inability of the international community to come to grips with apartheid justified action by the United Nations, which had an important role to play. The amount of money involved was small in comparison with the size and seriousness of the problem. However, if separate votes had been taken, he would have abstained on the recommendations on draft resolutions A/40/L.26 and L.32 and voted against those on draft resolution A/40/L.30.

66. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had voted against the recommendations on the financial implications of the draft resolutions as a whole because they did not reflect the need to make prudent use of scarce resources. In particular, he suggested that the conference proposed in draft resolution A/40/L.28 was more likely to emphasize the divisions among the opponents of apartheid than to weaken that system. His delegation could not accept that the United Nations should finance the conference. Nor could it accept as a satisfactory budgetary procedure the allocation of funds under draft resolution A/40/L.31 to any other event whatsoever that the Special Committee against Apartheid might decide to co-sponsor in 1986. Also unacceptable was the proposal in draft resolution A/40/L.27 to use regular budget funds to support the New York offices of national liberation movements.

67. Mr. PIETIKAINEN (Finland) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the recommendations on draft resolutions A/40/L.26-L.32 as a whole, but would have voted against the recommendation on draft resolution A/40/L.30 if it had been put to a separate vote.

68. Mr. ZONGWE (Zaire) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the recommendations on draft resolutions A/40/L.26-L.32. However, if separate votes had been taken, it would have abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/40/L.30 for the same reasons as had later dictated its abstention on that draft resolution in the plenary Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 119: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
(continued) (A/40/769; A/C.5/40/65)

69. Mr. DEVREUX (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the States Members of the European Economic Community, said that the Advisory Committee's report (A/40/769) was of great importance if United Nations institutions were to make the best possible use of their separate resources in the service of the collective good. It was also useful as a source of information and statistics on administrative and budgetary matters for the system as a whole.

70. The discussions which each agency and institution had with the Advisory Committee made it possible to compare the methods by which the different agencies tackled different needs and to prevent their various practices from diverging sharply without other institutions being informed. The Advisory Committee's interviews with representatives of the institutions ensured that their basic management techniques remained comparable, even if they were not identical.

71. Further progress in improving administrative and budgetary co-ordination was possible and necessary to increase the transparency of budgets and harmonize personnel policies, thus strengthening the common system. Such progress could only result from joint efforts by the General Assembly and the governing bodies of all the agencies and institutions. Those efforts would have to take due account of the specific constraints imposed by the mandates and operating needs of each institution.

72. By watching over administrative and budgetary co-ordination, the Advisory Committee ensured the necessary conditions for accomplishing an even more essential task, namely, the policy co-ordination which would make it possible to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations system. In that connection, the States Members of the European Community welcomed the concern expressed by many delegations that co-ordination among the various agencies of the system should be improved. They also especially welcomed the draft resolution of the Second Committee, whose adoption would testify to the the General Assembly's concern to see the co-ordination of programmes and policies strengthened in a specific and lasting way.

(b) IMPACT OF INFLATION AND MONETARY INSTABILITY ON THE REGULAR BUDGET OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

73. Mr. ANNAN (Director, Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of inflation and monetary instability on the regular budget of the United Nations (A/C.5/40/65), said that it was the fifth and hopefully the last of the annual series of such reports produced by the Budget Division. It had been made as brief and precise as possible and he was prepared to answer any questions to which it might give rise.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.