



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BUJ-FLORES (Mexico)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 91: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981 (continued)

Arabic language services (A/C.5/35/18 and Corr.1)

1. Mr. FALL (Mauritania) said that his delegation had studied with interest the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/18 and Corr.1) and had taken note of the efforts made to implement the provisions of resolution 34/226. The Arabic language services still needed to be improved quantitatively and qualitatively. There were too many delays in issuing documents and records in Arabic. It was clear that the Arabic translation and interpretation services did not have the necessary human and material resources to provide better results. The time had come to implement resolution 34/226 and, in the opinion of his delegation, it was the duty of the Secretariat, in consultation with the Arab countries, to take steps to improve the quality of linguistic services in Arabic and bring them up to a standard comparable to that provided in the other languages. The Mauritanian delegation asked that greater attention be given to that question.
2. Mr. HABIB (United Arab Emirates) said that his delegation had studied the Secretary-General's report on Arabic language services and had also listened to the detailed explanations provided by Mr. Lewandowski, the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments. The decision to make Arabic an official language of the United Nations was not a recent one, but dated from the twenty-ninth session; services in that language should therefore be of a higher standard. Yet, despite the repeated requests of the Arab delegations in that connexion, the standard still left much to be desired. As an example, he mentioned the fact that since the beginning of the current session only one summary record of the Fifth Committee's discussions had been issued in Arabic; in addition, the text of the documents in Arabic were full of mistakes. The comparison of the staff of the Arabic language services with the other language staff which was given in the Secretary-General's report could in no way serve to justify the failure to give the Arabic language its proper place.
3. He asked when verbatim reporters, both permanent and free-lance, would be recruited and in particular whether this would take place before or after the session. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's hope that the subject of Arabic language services would disappear from the agenda of the General Assembly once resolution 34/226 had been fully implemented.
4. Mr. JONAH (Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services) said that he would take the opportunity to reply to the questions asked by delegations and to clarify the mistaken conclusions to which the delays in recruiting new Arabic translators had given rise.
5. Since translators' and interpreters' posts were non-geographical, the procedure followed in filling them differed from that followed in filling other posts. In order to guarantee impartiality and fairness in selecting the best candidates, recruitment was based on the following elements: (a) qualifications of candidates;

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(b) results of the written examination; and (c) results of the interview with the candidates. Since 50 vacancies in the Arabic Translation Service and 14 in the Arabic Interpretation Section were to be filled, the Secretariat had embarked on the largest recruitment exercise ever undertaken in a limited period of time.

6. The exercise had begun in January, with a wide publicity campaign, which the Recruitment Service had conducted in accordance with the time-table established by the Board of Examiners. A total of 2,600 applications had been screened, 1,620 applicants had been invited and 1,172 had sat the examination. The examinations had been held on 13 and 14 May 1980, after which the marking period had begun. The Board of Examiners had met on 1 August 1980 to evaluate the results after the marking.

7. Interviews in Paris had begun on 11 August 1980 and had lasted for one week. Interviews had been held in Cairo from 18 to 29 August 1980, again in Paris from 1 to 6 September 1980 and, lastly, from 15 to 20 September 1980 in New York. The total of 162 candidates who had passed the written examination had been interviewed, and about a month of recruitment time had been saved by having the interview reports typed on the spot.

8. The Board of Examiners for interpreters and the Board of Examiners for translators had adopted their recommendations on 15 and 16 October 1980, respectively. The presentations of all recommended translation and interpretation candidates had been sent to the Appointment and Promotion Committee on 20 October 1980 (a record time considering the large number of candidates and the work involved). On 23 October 1980, the Appointment and Promotion Committee had passed all the recommendations, which still had to be reviewed by the Appointment and Promotion Board.

9. It should be noted that 13 Arabic translators selected by the Department of Conference Services had been brought on board on a short-term basis beginning on 13 October 1980. Free-lance interpreters had already been on board since the beginning of the General Assembly session. There was currently a total of 29 short-term translators and 3 short-term revisers in the Arabic Translation Service.

10. The Secretariat was currently engaged in completing other recruitment formalities such as reference checks. However, in order to inform the candidates, check with their current employers and obtain the medical clearance, it was necessary to know which of the 76 candidates for translation posts the Department of Conference Services wished to appoint to fill the 50 available posts (the remainder would be placed on a roster for future recruitment). A recommendation had been urgently requested, but had not yet been received.

11. Since there would be a fairly large number of translator candidates on the roster, after the available translation posts had been filled, the needs that might arise in the near future could be met in a short time.

12. Mr. LEWANDOWSKI (Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments) admitted that the complaints of the Arabic-speaking delegations about

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the lack of summary records in Arabic were valid. The Department of Conference Services was seriously concerned about the problem and could not offer any justification at that time. The Department was trying to overcome the remaining difficulties in order to regularize the situation by the end of the session and achieve tangible results in that respect.

13. With regard to the problem of summary records in Arabic, he wished to reply to the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, who with reference to paragraph 8 of the report on Arabic language services (A/C.5/35/18 and Corr.1) had asked at an earlier meeting why records were being provided by short-term staff and why such staff were not recruited at an earlier stage. The paragraph in question referred to verbatim records. There was a difference between, on the one hand, the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages, which were used in all the organs of the United Nations, and, on the other hand, the Arabic language, which was used only in the General Assembly, in the Main Committees and at special conferences in pursuance of specific decisions of the General Assembly. Verbatim records were prepared only in the General Assembly (in plenary meetings, in the First Committee and sometimes in the Special Political Committee) and in the Security Council and the Trusteeship Council.

14. Because of the permanent character of the functions performed by the Security Council, the Secretariat kept a permanent staff of verbatim reporters for four official languages throughout the year, since naturally the Security Council might meet at any moment. On the other hand, teams of free-lance staff were recruited for the General Assembly, which included teams of verbatim reporters who were not needed during the rest of the year. Of course, if the General Assembly decided to extend the use of Arabic to more organs - such as, for example, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council - permanent teams of Arabic verbatim reporters would be recruited. Records of that kind were quite different from summary records, which were prepared in English, French and Spanish and were later translated into Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

15. As Mr. Jonah had already indicated, the effort made in connexion with the recruitment of Arabic language staff had been one of the biggest in the history of the United Nations. The task of interviewing and screening candidates had placed a heavy burden on the staff of the Arabic Translation Service, who were the only ones qualified to perform that task. It had been necessary to divert some staff members from their regular work, but the Service had nevertheless done an admirable job. During the current year, the output of the Arabic Translation Service had been higher than in any other year. During the period from January to September 1979, the Service had translated and/or revised 14,500 standard pages (4,700,000 words). During the corresponding period in 1980, the figure had been 19,600 pages (6,463,100 words), which represented an increase of over 35 per cent.

16. In 1980 the rate of increase in output had been accelerating. In the period April-September 1979, output had been 9,600 pages. The corresponding figure for the same period in 1980 was 14,800 pages, or an increase of almost 55 per cent. In September 1979, output had been 2,400 pages, whereas in September 1980 the figure was almost 4,000 pages, or an increase of over 66 per cent. That increase had been

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achieved despite the fact that in September 1980 the Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Caracas, had taken a total of 50 man-days of the Arabic Translation Service. In 1979, by contrast, only 15 man-days had been required for the session of the World Food Council held at Ottawa. For the month of September 1980, the Arabic Translation Service had reached parity in output with other comparable translation services.

17. The General Assembly supplements provided a good example of the improvement achieved. All of the 46 supplements issued to date for the thirty-fifth session had also appeared in Arabic. Although, occasionally, the Arabic version had been issued after the other language versions, in most cases that was because more work was involved in translating a supplement into Arabic. The supplements frequently included material which had already been translated into all languages except Arabic in documents for bodies other than the General Assembly. For example, in the case of Supplement No. 38 (Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination), 105 pages had had to be translated into Arabic, compared with 15 pages (plus 50 pages of revision only) into other languages. Supplement No. 10 (Report of the International Law Commission) had required 461 pages of translation into Arabic, whereas the versions in the other languages had been prepared previously. The situation had been different on 1 November 1979: of the 41 supplements issued by that date for the thirty-fourth session, 7 had not been produced in Arabic.

18. During the past few weeks the rate of increase had fallen off somewhat, owing to problems of office space. However, that the situation had now improved was obvious when one compared the number of documents being translated into Arabic with the number of documents being translated into other languages: in the week of 19-25 October a total of 82 General Assembly documents had been processed by the translation services and 71 (or 86.5 per cent) of those documents had been translated simultaneously into Arabic.

19. As to complaints about the quality of documentation, he would be grateful if delegations would supply specific examples. It should be stated that in all the years of existence of the Arabic Translation Service there had been no complaints about the quality of its translations. That was not true of interpretation. Many organizations were vying for the services of United Nations interpreters and were trying to lure them away by offering higher salaries. The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States had requested the co-operation of the Department of Conference Services, which attested to the high standard of interpretation and translation in the United Nations.

20. He agreed with the Moroccan delegation that the problem in the Arabic language services was not confined to recruitment, although that area was and would continue to be critical, since for the recruitment of language staff there was the added complication of examinations. There was also a psychological problem. He assured the representative of Morocco that the Department of Conference Services would do all in its power to ensure that there was a favourable atmosphere in the Arabic Translation Service; that was essential if the staff were to work efficiently and *with dedication*.

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(Mr. Lewandowski)

21. Regarding the statement by the representative of Morocco that the supervisor of the Arabic services did not speak Arabic, he would like to know the basis of that observation, since both the Chief of the Arabic Translation Service and the Chief of the Arabic Interpretation Section were distinguished and outstanding Arabic linguists. Neither Mrs. Cestac nor he himself spoke Arabic, but their tasks were essentially administrative. It would be extremely difficult to find linguists who not only knew all the official languages of the United Nations but, in addition, had administrative experience.

22. With respect to the comparison between the Arabic language services (especially in the area of documentation) and the other language services, he would refer the Committee again to paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/35/18, which contained a comparative table of the numbers of staff in the six language services.

23. The delegation of Morocco had also spoken of recruitment level and promotion. It was true that language staff were recruited at the P-2 level, which was too low. The situation in the labour market was such that many linguists preferred to work on a free-lance basis (especially the interpreters), as in that way they could earn as much as officials at the D-1 and D-2 levels. The same situation affected the other language services, and the problem would be considered at the current session of the Assembly. He therefore hoped that the Arabic-speaking delegations would join with other delegations in improving career and promotion prospects for language staff in general.

24. With respect to the situation prevailing in the Arabic Translation Service, as compared with the other translation services, and the need to create a climate conducive to optimum performance by the staff, he wished to point out that at the upper levels, which were the most important, the Arabic Service had one D-1 post and four P-5 posts. In the Chinese Service there were one D-1 and four P-5 posts, one of which was vacant. In the Spanish and French Services the D-1 post was provisionally occupied by a P-5 staff member. In the French Service there were only three staff members at the P-5 level at the present time. In the English Service the D-1 post was currently filled by a P-5 staff member and there were only two P-5 posts. In the Russian Service there were one D-1 and only two P-5 posts.

25. Career prospects in the Arabic Translation Service were equivalent to those in the other translation services. It would be regrettable if it were thought that staff in the Arabic Service were treated differently.

26. The Moroccan delegation had stated that there had been no interpretation into Arabic at the concert to celebrate United Nations Day. In fact, there had indeed been interpretation into Arabic. It was perhaps ill-advised to believe everything one heard.

27. In response to the question by the representative of Panama concerning the Bourguiba Institute in Tunis, he said that the Department of Conference Services was indeed co-operating with that Institute.

28. Mr. TIMBRELL (Assistant Secretary-General for General Services), replying to delegations which had inquired about arrangements for accommodating the Arabic Translation Service, said that the Office of General Services had begun to deal with the matter in the light of the General Assembly decision to expand that Service. There was currently no vacant office space in the Secretariat building and, since the Arabic Translation Service must be given space in the Secretariat building, it would be necessary to transfer offices whose functions did not require them to occupy the building.

29. However, the Office of General Services had encountered difficulties at the time of deciding which units should be transferred to make room for the Arabic Translation Service. In some cases, the transfer of the units in question would be prohibitively expensive and, in others, the transfer was considered inadvisable for political reasons, as it would hinder the work of various Member States. There were now definite plans for transferring some offices out of the Secretariat building, but it would take time to make all the rental arrangements and to adapt the new premises and acquire equipment. Thus it would not be possible to finalize those arrangements during the current session. For the time being the Arabic Translation Service, together with various other units, had been accommodated temporarily on the 39th floor of the Secretariat building, which had meant that the language courses had had to be moved.

30. He was bound to admit that those temporary arrangements left much to be desired and were troublesome for the staff concerned. He was therefore grateful to the Department of Conference Services for the full co-operation it had shown in resigning itself to the situation. In early 1981 there would be sufficient office space in the Secretariat building to provide permanent accommodation for the Arabic Translation Service.

31. Mr. MAHMOOD (Bahrain) said that, with the sole exception of Panama, only the Arab delegations had spoken in the discussion of the item, though it was of great interest for the work of the United Nations as a whole. The Arab delegations had strongly urged that the serious problems which beset the Arabic language services in the Secretariat should be considered and immediate corrective action taken; they had done so not merely for reasons of prestige, still less from any desire to be hyper-critical, but from a sense of responsibility and a genuine desire to avoid a situation in which delegations might be unable to make their full contribution to the consideration of various agenda items because the necessary documentation had not been made available soon enough.

32. The Arabic language was the medium of a very rich civilization and cultural heritage and it was thus well suited to be a working language in all the fields of United Nations activity, as had indeed been recognized by General Assembly resolution 3190 (XXVIII). He expressed his appreciation to the Arabic language services of the Secretariat for their commendable performance despite unfavourable working conditions. He was sure that the Secretariat would spare no effort to come up with permanent remedial measures without delay.

33. Mr. TANC (Turkey) said that the fact that so few representatives of non-Arab States had spoken in the discussion of the Arabic language services could only be

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due to the fact that delegations had found it difficult to assess the quality of those services. In that connexion, he pointed out that the adoption of Arabic as an official language of the United Nations had been supported by many States which did not use it as a working language.

34. He had listened with interest to the statements which had been made and the answers of the Secretariat representatives; he hoped that the deficiencies would be made good, so that Arabic could soon be brought up to a level equal with the services of the other official languages of the United Nations.

35. Mr. AL-JABER (Qatar) recalled that at its twenty-eighth session the General Assembly had adopted resolution 3190 (XXVIII) for the inclusion of Arabic among the official and the working languages of the General Assembly and its Main Committees, the aim of which had been to enable Arabic-speaking delegations to participate fully in the work of the United Nations and to make a positive contribution to the achievement of the purposes of the Charter. The discussion at the thirty-fourth session had centred on the fact that the Arabic language services were qualitatively far below the other official and working languages of the United Nations, and it had been said that that was detrimental to the Arabic-speaking delegations in general and hampered their participation in the work of the General Assembly.

36. During that session the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, had adopted resolution 34/226, which requested the Secretary-General to adopt effective measures to solve those problems, and there had consequently been grounds for hope that the thirty-fifth session would see an appreciable improvement in the Arabic language services. Unfortunately, no such improvement had occurred. Documents continued to be issued late and many of them contained inaccuracies and downright mistakes. It was stated in paragraph 13 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/35/18) that an examination for the recruitment of Arabic translators had been conducted on 13 and 14 May 1980, a full six months after the adoption of resolution 34/226, even though that resolution called for the immediate reinforcement of the Arabic Translation Service. That fact among others seemed to indicate some slackness by the Secretariat in implementing resolution 34/226. He hoped that measures would be taken without delay to ensure that the Arabic language services were brought up to a level equal with the services of the other official and working languages of the United Nations.

37. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) expressed his appreciation to the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services and the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments for their precise and detailed replies to his questions. He acknowledged that the Secretariat had made a commendable effort to solve the problems of the Arabic language services and regretted that the whole matter had now become enveloped in a contentious atmosphere and that a comment had been made about the "mistaken" interpretations which some delegations had placed on the delays in recruitment, without regard for the fact that there could be two ways of looking at any problem. He hoped that such observations would not be repeated.

38. The technical and methodological problems of the strengthening and efficient functioning of the Arabic language services were a matter for the Secretariat alone.

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(Mr. Lahlou, Morocco)

As far as delegations were concerned, it was only the results which mattered, in the sense that they wanted documentation that was complete, on time and of high quality, enabling them to pursue their work smoothly and without setbacks.

39. Giving special attention to the efficient operation of the Arabic language services did not imply any kind of special favouritism for those services. It meant simply the exercise of tighter control over a relatively recently established service, which must be supervised with particular care in order to guarantee its efficient functioning. In his view, the quality of Arabic language documentation and of the interpretation services was satisfactory. In that connexion, the Secretariat must ensure that United Nations language services were first-rate and must try to retain staff by offering them suitable conditions of employment. It was not relevant to compare United Nations salaries with those in the free market, since the United Nations gave allowances and incentives which could not be obtained outside.

40. The Secretariat representatives had stated that during the current year more documents than in the previous year had been translated into Arabic. It would have been surprising if it had been otherwise, since the previous year had seen the adoption of a resolution to strengthen the Arabic language services.

41. With regard to the use of Arabic at the United Nations Day concert, he recalled that subtitles for the television transmission had been shown on the screen in all languages except Arabic; that was really what his statement had been about.

42. Finally, he repeated that his delegation would co-operate with the Secretariat as necessary to find solutions to the problems of the Arabic language services.

43. Mr. BOUZARBIA (Algeria) noted with satisfaction that Secretariat officials shared the concern of the Arabic-speaking delegations regarding the problems of Arabic language services. Lack of finance had ceased to be an obstacle with the adoption at the previous session of resolution 34/226, which should have enabled the Secretariat to take all necessary measures to ensure that the Arabic language actually enjoyed the status which had been accorded to it seven years previously. However, the use of the three kinds of resources (financial, human and material) necessary to implement the resolution had not been properly phased, and that seemed to indicate that the Secretariat was having serious problems of co-ordination.

44. He hoped that those problems were really on the way to a solution and trusted that all would be set right very soon, so that the Arabic language, which had taken its legitimate place in the concert of nations, would no longer be the poor relation of the United Nations family.

45. Mr. RAMZY (Egypt) expressed his appreciation of the efforts of the Office of Personnel Services and the Department of Conference Services to implement General Assembly resolution 34/226 but thought that more effective action was required in some areas. For example, a greater effort was called for in the marking of *examination scripts and interviewing candidates* if in future the recruitment process was to be concluded with the least possible delay.

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(Mr. Ramzy, Egypt)

46. In view of the fact that resolution 34/226 was still in process of implementation, he thought that it would not be appropriate at the present session to make any evaluation of the quality of the Arabic language services. The Secretariat should do all it could to supervise and improve the quality of those services, so that possibly at the next session there could be a general review of the implementation of the resolution in question.

47. Mr. GHARIANI (Tunisia) said that his delegation considered the question of the Arabic language services to be very important and was convinced that the Secretariat wished to rectify the existing inadequacies so that those services could enjoy optimal conditions.

48. Moreover, he assured the Committee that his country's institutions were prepared to co-operate with the Secretariat in every way possible so as to ensure that the Arabic language services overcame their current problems by the next session.

49. Mr. WILLIAMS (Panama) said that, in his delegation's opinion, it was very important for the United Nations to support the Bourguiba Institute, in Tunisia, in connexion with the training of Arabic interpreters and translators. A comprehensive programme of scholarships at that Institute and the collaboration of distinguished professors from Arab countries would considerably stimulate its functioning. Graduates of the Institute could enter the United Nations directly as translators and interpreters.

50. The table contained in paragraph 7 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/35/18) clearly reflected the differences between the Arabic language services and the other language services.

51. Moreover, paragraph 11 of the same document indicated that a publicity campaign had been conducted in 23 countries with a view to filling the interpreter posts. His delegation hoped that recruitment would also cover a broad geographical base and that candidates would be selected from the largest possible number of countries, and not just from a few.

52. In that connexion, he drew attention to the situation in the Spanish language services, where, despite the fact that there were at least 29 Spanish-speaking countries, staff members were nationals of only four or five countries. The Office of Personnel Services should look into that situation.

53. His delegation considered the explanations provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments to be satisfactory and was certain that the Secretariat would do everything possible to improve the situation of the Arabic language services.

54. Mr. ABDEL RAHMAN (Sudan) endorsed the comments of previous speakers who had drawn attention to the lack of documents in Arabic. The Under-Secretary-General had recognized the problem concerning summary records in Arabic, but, in his delegation's opinion, the lack of documents in Arabic was perhaps even more serious because of the repercussions it had on the course of the debate.

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(Mr. Abdel Rahman, Sudan)

55. Those difficulties were attributed to the lack of office space for the Arabic Translation Service and, accordingly, he asked whether any steps had been taken to solve that problem for either the current or the next session. He also asked whether the Arabic versions of the documents needed for the Committee's discussions could be expected to be issued soon and whether the fact that no supplements had been published in Arabic for the past seven years was also due to problems of space. In conclusion, his delegation hoped that the provisions of resolution 34/226 would be implemented rapidly.

56. Mr. YOUNIS (Iraq) said it was very regrettable that the Assistant Secretary-General for General Services had tried to deny the existence of factors that were contributing to the inadequacies indicated by the Arab countries. He did not wish to enter into a detailed discussion, since at the meeting held on 31 October his delegation had made a scientific and objective analysis of the inadequacies apparent in the implementation of resolution 34/226, in which the Secretary-General had been requested to undertake the immediate reinforcement of the Arabic Translation Service.

57. After indicating that the Government of Iraq attached great importance to that question and would follow developments very closely until the relevant resolution had been duly implemented, he suggested that further consideration of the matter should be postponed to allow delegations to hold consultations and submit specific proposals to the Secretary-General.

58. The CHAIRMAN, responding to the request of the representative of Iraq, said that he would close the debate only on the substantive question under consideration and asked delegations to try to carry out the proposed consultations as soon as possible.

59. Mr. JONAH (Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services) clarified for the representative of Morocco that, in mentioning mistaken conclusions about what had caused the delays in the recruitment of Arabic language translators, he had by no means intended to refer to comments made by delegations.

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (continued)
(A/C.5/35/L.18/Rev.1)

60. The CHAIRMAN said that, after lengthy and thorough consultations with delegations, a revised version of the draft resolution on administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (A/C.5/35/L.18/Rev.1) had been prepared.

61. Although the new draft resolution was very similar to resolution 33/142, an effort had been made to improve the text and to ensure that the mandate of the agencies was formulated in a clear and precise manner. A provision had been added to paragraph 2 stating that the comments and observations made in the course of the debate in the Fifth Committee would also be referred to the organizations concerned.

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(The Chairman)

Paragraph 3 now requested the Secretary-General to refer to the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system, not only matters considered in the reports of the Advisory Committee, but also matters arising out of the related debate in the Fifth Committee. Lastly, paragraph 6 not only referred to paragraph 5 of resolution 33/142 but also included the complete text of that paragraph.

62. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution.

63. It was so decided.

64. Mr. SERBANESCU (Romania) thanked the Chairman for having improved the text of the draft resolution by reflecting the views of the Committee as a whole and welcomed the innovation of an express reference to the debate in the Committee.

65. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that he had proposed that the word "co-operation" should be added to the title of the draft resolution after the word "co-ordination", in order to stress the spirit of co-operation that should exist between the United Nations and the specialized agencies. However, on the understanding that such co-operation was considered to be implicit, he felt that the draft resolution was acceptable.

66. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation did not object to the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/35/L.18/Rev.1 by consensus, but it hoped that, at the end of future reports, the Advisory Committee would summarize the observations and comments referred to in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution in order to facilitate the work of delegations as well as the consideration of the relevant questions by the Fifth Committee.

67. The CHAIRMAN said he was sure that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had taken note of the suggestion made by the representative of the Soviet Union and that, in so far as possible, every effort would be made to facilitate the work of delegations.

68. He announced that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 94.

OTHER MATTERS

69. Mr. DUQUE (Secretary of the Committee), replying to a question from the representative of Somalia concerning the countries that were to participate in the consultative technical meeting to be held in Salisbury, Zimbabwe, in May (A/C.5/35/25, para. 6 (a) (ii)), said that the participation of the countries of southern Africa, as well as the countries of East Africa, was scheduled.

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70. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that paragraph 6 (a) (ii) of document A/C.5/35/25, which set out the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution in document A/35/3/Add.5, referred to consultative technical meetings of four subregional groups. The delegation of Somalia had indicated that there were five subregional groups in Africa and had proposed that the meeting of States in southern Africa, like the meeting for East Africa, should be held at Salisbury, Zimbabwe.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.