



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 39th 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 7.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 116 AND 117: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1986-1987 AND PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/40/3, A/40/6, A/40/7, A/40/38 and Add.1 and A/40/262; A/C.5/40/3 and Add.1 and A/40/7/Add.3; A/C.5/40/11 and Corr.1 (English only) and A/40/7/Add.4)

First reading (continued)

Section 27. Public information

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that paragraph 27.9 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/40/7) contained a breakdown of estimates for public information activities included under sections of the proposed programme budget (A/40/6) other than section 27. Details on the proposed staffing changes, including the establishment of a new D-2 post, were given in paragraph 27.6.
2. He observed that the activities included in the two subprogrammes under section 27 required a special effort to ensure co-ordination of public information activities.
3. For several years, the Advisory Committee had been requesting information on work-load standards and staffing patterns for information coverage of meetings held away from Headquarters. That information had been provided by the Secretariat and was summarized in paragraph 27.11 of the Advisory Committee's report.
4. Following consideration in the Advisory Committee of the proposal to split the Radio and Visual Services Division (A/40/7, para. 27.23), the Secretary-General had submitted a report on the restructuring of the Division (A/40/841) under agenda item 78. In paragraph 12 of that report, the Secretary-General indicated that, in order to allow time to prepare a schedule and procedures for the restructuring of the Division so as not to affect the mobility and career development of its staff, it was proposed to delay the implementation of the proposal for one year, i.e. until 1 January 1987. In that connection, he suggested that the Secretariat should inform the Committee of any administrative and financial implications of the delay.
5. With regard to contractual arrangements for the provision of services, the Advisory Committee was recommending, in paragraph 27.25 of its report, that the estimate for telecommunications services should be reduced by \$126,200.
6. After receiving detailed information on the estimates for the production of booklets and leaflets, the Advisory Committee had concluded that it should be possible to realize savings which would reduce the estimate by \$103,300.
7. The Advisory Committee had noted a slight improvement in the quality of information provided concerning requirements for the United Nations information centres and trusted that further improvements would be made in the future.

(Mr. Mselle)

8. The problem of the Yearbook of the United Nations was long-standing and was characterized by successive commitments which could not be met. The solutions referred to in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/40/37) reflected a commendable aim, but the decision taken had not occurred at the most opportune time. The production schedule indicated in paragraph 27.37 of the Advisory Committee's report would be very difficult to adhere to, as had been the case with previous timetables for eliminating the backlog. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Department of Public Information (DPI) should issue abbreviated editions of the Yearbook until such time as the backlog had been eliminated, which would allow resources to be put to better use and speed up the elimination of the backlog.

9. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) had referred in paragraphs 683 to 695 of its report (A/40/38) to the continuation of radio programmes on women. The Secretary-General had submitted a statement of the financial implications of the relevant CPC proposal (A/40/38/Add.1, paras. 19-23), indicating that the continuation of the radio programmes would result in additional requirements in the amount of \$310,800. Those amounts would be considered in conjunction with any resources which might be required to implement decisions arising from the recent World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, held at Nairobi.

10. Mr. CABRIC (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination), referring to the restructuring of the Radio and Visual Services Division, said that some members of CPC had expressed doubts about the appropriateness of that initiative, while others had supported it strongly. The view had also been expressed that the proposal might be implemented by the Secretary-General, in his administrative capacity, without the intervention of the Committee on Information. CPC had recommended that the Secretary-General, when taking a decision on the subject, should bear in mind the opinions expressed by members of CPC.

11. Some members of CPC had voiced objections to the establishment of a D-1 post for the head of the Information Service at Vienna. The majority of members had raised objections to the termination of radio programmes on women authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/136. Consequently, CPC had recommended that those programmes should be continued, taking into account the decision to be taken by the General Assembly on the outcome of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women.

12. Questions had been asked regarding the quality and value of press releases. CPC had recommended that the Secretariat should endeavour to improve the quality of press releases.

13. Members had expressed concern at the proliferation of various information activities, and CPC had recommended that the Secretary-General should submit to it, at its twenty-sixth session, a detailed report on the mandates, programme outputs and resources devoted to public information activities in the United Nations for the biennium 1984-1985, together with a comparison of public information activities

(Mr. Cabric)

planned for the next biennium and a description of existing procedures for the co-ordination of those activities.

14. Some members of CPC had questioned the existence of a mandate for certain activities. Thus, one delegation had objected strongly to the inclusion, in programme element 2.5 (Human rights), of output (vii) concerning a pamphlet on the role of individuals and groups in the promotion and protection of human rights. In the view of that delegation, DPI had no mandate for that output and should abide strictly by the mandate received from intergovernmental organs.

15. CPC had decided to recommend that the output descriptions should be amended for programme elements 1.2 (News dispatches), 2.2 (Disarmament), 2.9 (New world information and communication order) and 2.12 (Development: economic and social) and that, with those changes, the General Assembly should approve section 27 of the proposed programme budget.

16. Mr. MURRAY (Trinidad and Tobago), supported by Mr. BOKHARI (Pakistan), recalled that, in paragraph 9 of its resolution 38/82 B, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to take urgent steps, within the next programme budget, to enable the Caribbean Unit in the Radio Service of the Department of Public Information to begin a meaningful work programme, in particular by the introduction of full programming in French/Creole and limited programming in Dutch/Papiamentu. That resolution had referred to a report of the Secretary-General to the Committee on Information (A/AC.198/65) in which it was stated that the two Professionals in the Caribbean Unit, one a P-4 and one a P-3, were occupied with programming in English. Paragraph 5 of the report came to the conclusion that any expansion of the Unit in terms of programming in additional languages should concentrate on the two main languages; French/Creole and Dutch/Papiamentu, while paragraph 8 stated that any meaningful work programme would require one full-time P-3 writer/producer and one G-5 production assistant/secretary for each language or combination of languages.

17. Commenting that the work programme requested by the General Assembly ought to be included in the programme budget for 1986-1987, he asked the Secretariat whether the current Professional staff of the Caribbean Unit occupied P-4 and P-3 posts, what urgent steps had been taken to put the meaningful work programme requested by the General Assembly into effect, and what resources had been allocated for that purpose.

18. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that his delegation welcomed the fact that DPI used various languages apart from the official languages of the United Nations in order to publicize the Organization's work as widely as possible. In that connection, his delegation would be grateful if Headquarters could assist the United Nations Information Centre at Rome, which had a very small staff, by providing it with some of the relevant material already translated into Italian, as was already done with some other non-official European languages. His delegation regretted that Italian was not included among the languages in question, particularly when Italy had a population of 57 million inhabitants who were very interested in the work of the United Nations.

19. Mr. ANNAN (Director, Budget Division), replying to the question raised by the representative of Italy, said that the Secretariat could produce material in any language requested by Member States but that budget restrictions and the financial implications that would be involved prevented it from doing so. The publication of information material in European languages which were not official languages of the United Nations was left to the decision of the directors of individual Information Centres. Appropriations for DPI included a limited sum for contractual translation at the local level. If the Director of a Centre considered material published in the official languages of the United Nations to be of special interest to the region covered by the Centre, he could have it translated against those funds. That fact should perhaps be drawn to the attention of the Director of the Rome Information Centre so that, if he considered that there was any material which was of particular interest and importance to Italy, he could have it translated contractually against the funds earmarked for that purpose.

20. Mr. GERVAIS (Haiti), referring to the Caribbean Unit of the Radio Service of DPI, established in conformity with paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 37/94 B, said that, since Creole and Papiamentu were the languages used most widely in the Caribbean, his delegation would like to know what steps had been taken to broadcast programmes on United Nations activities in those languages.

21. Mr. MONIRUZZAMAN (Bangladesh), supported by Mr. BOKHARI (Pakistan), Mr. SEFIANI (Morocco), Mr. SINGH (Fiji) and Mr. ODUYEMI (Nigeria), said that his delegation was one of those which had serious doubts about the usefulness and accuracy of the press releases provided for in programme element 1.1, a point which was taken up in paragraph 398 of the report of CPC (A/40/38). Although press releases were not official records of meetings, it was vital that they should reflect accurately the basic content of statements made by the various delegations. Some senior DPI officials had argued that the releases were prepared from a journalistic standpoint, but it was unacceptable that they should distort delegations' statements in order to make them more attractive to the press. His delegation trusted that, in future, DPI would seek to improve the quality of press releases, which also served to keep delegations, particularly those of smaller countries, abreast of the activities of the various committees and organs of the United Nations system.

22. Mr. ORSATELLI (France), referring to paragraph 27.6 of the proposed programme budget (A/40/6) concerning the restructuring of the Radio and Visual Services Division proposed by the Secretariat, said that his delegation was among those which were unable to understand the reasons for the proposal. In his view, the fact that the two media used very different techniques - the main argument advanced in the paragraph in question to justify the restructuring proposal - should not stand in the way of a minimum of co-ordination. The second argument used to justify the proposal, namely that such restructuring would enable the Department to better complement national and international broadcasting in the production of radio and audio-visual materials and to ensure more effective management of each activity, was even more surprising in its superficiality. The Secretariat would need to justify its initiative with more cogent arguments than that. His delegation would like to know therefore why the Secretariat had thus far seen fit to combine the two services and what had prompted it to change its mind.

23. Mr. BOKHARI (Pakistan) said that his delegation was in favour of setting up an inter-agency task force as a means of improving and rationalizing the work of DPI and thought that it would be useful to restructure the Radio and Visual Services Division.

24. Mr. YAKOVENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that CPC should have made more effort to detect and eliminate obsolete or duplicated activities within DPI and to rationalize the Department's work. The delay in the publication of the Yearbook of the United Nations was a good example of inefficient use of resources and it was obvious that, in that instance, the problem was one of mismanagement rather than lack of funds.

25. Regarding the staff needed to carry out the activities of the public information programme, he was quite sure that the 828 staff members and the over 70 million dollars in appropriations already allocated to the Department were sufficient. He would therefore give no support whatsoever to the allocation of additional funds.

26. Mr. ODUYEMI (Nigeria) said that, given the obvious proliferation of information-related activities in all Secretariat departments, his delegation seriously doubted whether the 0.3 per cent negative real growth rate referred to in paragraph 27.3 of the proposed programme budget (A/40/6) reflected the real situation and would like the Secretariat to confirm that figure. His delegation would also like the Secretariat to tell the Fifth Committee what steps had been taken since the latest session of CPC to solve the problem of the possible duplication of information activities and to implement paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 38/82 B to which the representative of Trinidad and Tobago had referred.

27. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that it would be desirable to implement the recommendation contained in paragraph 684 of the report of CPC (A/40/38). The detailed report which the Secretary-General had been asked to provide in that recommendation would be very useful in evaluating public information activities, which, notwithstanding their negative growth in the proposed programme budget, represented about 5 per cent of the budget of the Organization. His delegation questioned whether those activities were of a priority sufficient to justify that percentage, and indeed considered that the number and content of public information activities could be reduced without affecting the substantive work of the United Nations. He nevertheless welcomed the efforts which had been made to limit the expansion of those activities, which had made it possible to achieve negative growth in the estimates recommended for section 27.

28. On the other hand, the cost of public information activities could be further reduced by, for example, limiting the number of information media used on each occasion or by sending fewer public information staff members to United Nations conferences. The time had come to re-examine the need for so many information centres when the centralization of activities in some of them should make it possible to perform the same tasks at less cost.

(Mr. Murray, United Kingdom)

29. In conclusion, he requested that an abbreviated edition of the United Nations Yearbook should be published on a continuing basis; he also expressed doubt regarding the need to restructure the Radio and Visual Services Division and did not consider that there was a need to create a D-1 post for the Information Service at Vienna as that post could be filled through redistribution.

30. Mr. LADJOUZI (Algeria) said that public information activities were very important for his country. He nevertheless considered that the funds assigned to those activities could be better employed if they were concentrated on a few programmes which were of maximum interest to Members States.

31. His delegation shared the concerns of the delegations of Trinidad and Tobago and Haiti regarding the implementation of paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 38/82 B and paragraph 19 of its resolution 37/94 B regarding a separate Caribbean Unit for the Radio Service of the Department of Public Information. He hoped that the Secretariat would provide information in reply to the questions raised by those delegations. He also shared the concern of the delegation of Bangladesh regarding the quality of press releases. It should also be noted that those releases were issued only in English and French. They should be published in all the official languages of the United Nations.

32. Mr. CHUA (Singapore) said he shared the concern of the delegation of Bangladesh regarding the quality of press releases. In addition, he supported the statement of the representative of Trinidad and Tobago concerning the two posts in the Caribbean Unit and hoped that the necessary resources for those two posts would be made available.

33. Mr. MUDHO (Kenya) paid tribute to the public information activities engaged in and considered that they should not be overly criticized. He also hoped that the representatives of the Secretary-General would report on the issue raised by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago.

34. Mr. ANNAN (Director, Budget Division) said that the Caribbean Unit had one P-4 post, one P-3, one G-5 and one G-4. The holders of the Professional posts on the staffing table were both at the P-3 level but a request had been made that the Chief of the Unit should be promoted to P-4 in the near future. It was hoped that the other would also be promoted soon. The really interesting question was what measures had been taken to enhance the activities of the Unit. New activities had been proposed in the proposed programme budget, including a weekly radio report, a weekly news bulletin and a bimonthly radio documentary, all in both French and Creole, and also a weekly radio report in Dutch and Papiamentu. Those activities indicated that everything possible had been done to improve the Unit's programmes. In addition, the Secretary-General had decided that the Unit should carry out some of its activities on a contractual basis. For that purpose it had been allocated funds of up to \$115,400.

35. Concerning the press releases, he had taken note of the statements made; however, the staff members who produced those releases worked under pressure

(Mr. Annan)

because of the urgency with which the releases had to be distributed, so that errors were inevitable from time to time. Efforts would be made for a further improvement in the preparation of press releases.

36. In regard to the duplication of information activities, the Secretariat was preparing a report on public information activities, as requested by CPC.

37. Mr. FORAN (Controller) said that the issue of the restructuring of the Radio and Visual Services Division had been mentioned by a number of speakers. The Secretariat had already prepared a report on the issue (A/40/841) containing the justification for the restructuring, which should, however, be considered in historical perspective. When the Division had been established, television had been virtually unknown. Subsequently those activities had escalated. Radio activities had also increased substantially. The Division to be restructured was the largest in the Department. Each of the Divisions which would emerge from the restructuring would also be larger than the other Divisions in the Department so that there was no doubt that the Secretary-General's proposal to establish two divisions was justified. Nevertheless, because of the doubts expressed by delegations, the restructuring would be postponed for a year, until 1 January 1987.

38. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden) asked if the delay until 1 January 1987 in the division of the Radio and Visual Services Division into two meant that the Fifth Committee would consider the item again at the forty-first session of the General Assembly.

39. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) requested the Secretariat to inform the Committee of the financial implications of the delay proposed by the Secretary-General.

40. The CHAIRMAN said that, bearing in mind that the restructuring issue had been raised under agenda item 78 (Questions relating to information), it would be important to know the status of the Special Political Committee's consideration of document A/40/841.

41. Mr. ANNAN (Director, Budget Division) replied that the Special Political Committee had not yet taken a decision on that document. The Secretariat would report to the Fifth Committee on the progress of the Special Political Committee's work on the issue. The restructuring of the Radio and Visual Services Division would result in net economies of \$96,000; the Secretary-General had no intention of withdrawing his proposal.

42. Miss DURRANT (Jamaica) noted that, as part of the restructuring of the Radio and Visual Services Division, it had been proposed to eliminate one P-3 post and one General Service post (A/40/6, para. 27.32); her delegation wished to know the cost of those posts compared with the cost of the contractual arrangements proposed for the corresponding activities.

43. With reference to the Caribbean Unit, she pointed out that it was a valuable source of information on the activities of the United Nations; it broadcast a weekly 15-minute programme and, during the General Assembly session, it also

(Miss Durrant, Jamaica)

broadcast a daily 15-minute news programme. Before the General Assembly had started its fortieth session, it had also broadcast another weekly half-hour programme in which it had dealt with international questions from the point of view of the Caribbean. Her delegation would welcome information from the Secretariat as to the reasons why the length of the radio programme broadcasts for the Caribbean had been reduced, as it would seem that the necessary funds had been appropriated in the budget for the biennium. While she shared the view of the representative of Bangladesh on the issue of press releases in general, she found no cause for complaint in the press releases on the work of the Fifth Committee. In conclusion, she supported the recommendation of CPC regarding the continuation of the radio programmes on women (A/40/38, para. 683).

44. Mr. VAHER (Canada) said he regretted the Secretary-General's decision to end the radio programmes on women, which, as his delegation understood it, had been the most successful. His delegation supported the recommendation of CPC that those programmes should be continued, and requested the Secretariat to explain the reasons for their proposed elimination.

45. Mr. ANNAN (Director, Budget Division), referring to the question posed by the representative of Jamaica with regard to the abolition of one P-3 and one General Service post, said that the cost of those posts during the biennium 1986-1987 would amount to \$191,100, while the proposal that the relevant activities should be carried out through contractual arrangements would entail an expenditure of \$115,400. The reduction of radio broadcasts to the Caribbean was due to the experiment involving a daily short-wave programme undertaken at the request of the Committee on Information, which should be carried out within existing resources.

46. In reply to the question of the representative of Canada, he noted that the activities carried out by DPI in connection with the programme for women were among the few which had a specific time-limit, namely, until the end of 1985. However, that did not exclude the possibility that the Secretariat would carry out other activities which might be requested of it as a result of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, held at Nairobi.

47. Mr. MURRAY (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the recommendation contained in paragraph 691 of the CPC report (A/40/38) had been made mainly because CPC had been concerned about the ability of DPI to fulfil its mandate with respect to the envisaged output. It seemed strange to his delegation that, in order to carry out full programming in a specific language, a method of earmarking resources different from that called for in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 38/82 B, had been chosen. Even though it was not his intention to question the Secretary-General's judgement in that matter, he could not help observing that the budget reflected a negative rate of real growth in cases where additional activities were called for. On the basis of the figures submitted by the Director of the Budget Division, although a P-3 and a General Service post had been requested for programming in French/Creole, along with contractual arrangements for programming in Dutch/Papiamentu, the total would amount to approximately \$210,000,

(Mr. Murray, Trinidad and Tobago)

an amount which, when added to the current budget, would still result in a budget with negative real growth. His delegation wished to have assurances that the envisaged output of the Caribbean Unit, namely, programming in additional languages, would be fully implemented, without adverse consequences for programming in English.

48. Mr. ANNAN (Director, Budget Division) said that, according to what he had been told by representatives of DPI, the additional information activities to which the representative of Trinidad and Tobago had referred could be carried out on a continuous basis.

49. Miss DURRANT (Jamaica) said that her delegation wished to know the cost of the experiment involving a daily short-wave programme, because it supposed that, when the Committee on Information had arranged for the experiment to be carried out within existing resources, it had not foreseen that the experiment would have a negative effect on radio broadcasting, or that it would result in a 50 per cent reduction in programming.

50. With regard to the abolition of the P-3 post as a result of the restructuring of the Radio and Visual Services Division, her delegation had hoped that, because of the probability of some delay before the restructuring became effective, consideration would be given to the possibility of maintaining the P-3 post in the Caribbean Unit, albeit temporarily, in order to carry out programming in French/Creole without resorting to contractual arrangements.

51. Mr. ANNAN (Director, Budget Division) said that he was not in a position to answer the question of the representative of Jamaica with regard to the cost of the experiment involving a daily short-wave programme but that he would do so at a later time.

52. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) asked why the appropriation of \$27,500 for grants for the biennium 1984-1985, contained in table 27.21 of the proposed programme budget, had been excluded from the estimates for the biennium 1986-1987. Furthermore, in section 27 various resources were requested for word-processing equipment. According to paragraph 27.64, the Secretariat had changed its policy with regard to word-processing equipment, and had decided to purchase rather than rent such equipment. As a result, in the biennium 1986-1987 there would be a reduction of \$261,900, which was reflected in the resource-growth column of table 27.21. However, according to paragraph 27.68, a non-recurrent provision of \$85,900 was proposed for the purchase of additional word-processing equipment, which was also reflected in the resource-growth column of table 27.21, although as an increase, not a reduction. He inquired why activities of the same type seemed to have been treated differently. Paragraph 27.64 dealt with the purchase of equipment, and that expenditure was considered recurrent. On the other hand, paragraph 27.68, which dealt with the purchase of the same type of equipment, referred to a "non-recurrent provision".

53. Mr. MAKTARI (Yemen) said that, since Arabic was an official language of the United Nations and was used by more than 15 million people, he wished to know what resources had been allocated for the provision of information material in Arabic.
54. Mr. EDON (Benin) said that his delegation believed that the information centres were very important structures for the developing countries, and the opening of additional centres was a positive step, which should be encouraged. In that regard, the appropriation requested for the information centres was not excessive, and the Fifth Committee should assist DPI to discharge its task more efficiently in so far as the activities of the centres were concerned.
55. Mr. ANNAN (Director, Budget Division) said that the provision of \$27,000 for 1984-1985 to whose deletion the representative of the United States had referred had been earmarked for a seminar conducted jointly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on a new world information and communication order. Since that seminar had been held in 1985, no further provision was necessary.
56. With respect to the non-recurrent provision for the purchase of word-processing equipment, he pointed out that such equipment used to be rented, but a study had shown that it would be much more economical to purchase it. The study had also shown that the period of economical operation of the equipment would be approximately five years. In the light of that fact, a programme for the maintenance of purchased equipment had begun, on the understanding that about 20 per cent would need to be replaced every year. The proposed programme budget showed as negative growth the transfer of resources for rental of equipment, which was a recurrent item, to purchase of equipment which, in the case of word-processing equipment, was a one-time acquisition and was considered non-recurrent. Those apparent contradictions in the proposed budget were explained in chapter I, paragraph 23, of the ACABQ report (A/40/7).
57. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to the question asked by the representative of the United States, said that the Advisory Committee had no difficulty with the method which had been followed. No resources for the purchase of equipment had been included in paragraph 27.64 of the proposed programme budget; only an amount of \$88,100 at 1985 rates had been requested for maintenance of word-processing equipment. An estimate of \$85,900 at 1985 rates had been included in paragraph 27.68 for the purchase of new equipment, which had been correctly identified as non-recurrent, since only one-time expenditure was involved.
58. Mr. FORAN (Controller), referring to the question of the representative of Yemen on the amount of resources which DPI allocated for its Arabic language services, said that he could not provide that information immediately, but that he would obtain it as soon as it became available.

59. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on paragraph 695 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (A/40/38).

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

60. Paragraph 695 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination was approved by 94 votes to 2.

61. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objections, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to approve paragraphs 683 to 694 of the report of CPC without a vote.

62. It was so decided.

63. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to approve in first reading the estimate of \$75,673,100 recommended by the Advisory Committee for the whole of section 27 of the programme budget for 1986-1987.

64. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that, while DPI activities were extremely useful and important, his delegation would abstain in the vote on section 27 because it considered that the funds allotted to the Department were too high, especially since, as reflected in paragraphs 27.9 and 27.10 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/40/7), those amounts would be even higher with the addition of the resources requested for public information activities under other sections of the budget.

65. Mr. LANGMAN (Australia) said that his delegation would abstain because, in his opinion, DPI was not carrying out its work in a cost-efficient manner.
66. Mr. ORSATELLI (France) said that his delegation would abstain in the vote for the same reasons as the Australian delegation. Especially serious was the lack of rigour in DPI activities with regard to the use of different languages and the definition and implementation of certain policies. Concerning the second point, his delegation had not been satisfied with the Controller's answers to its questions on the restructuring of the the Radio and Visual Services Division, which did not seem to have been sufficiently pondered. The Under-Secretary-General should clarify the concerns expressed by delegations in that regard.
67. Mr. DITZ (Austria) said that he supported the statement made by the Italian delegation and was confident that the Secretary-General could continue to strengthen the Information Service in Vienna, whose resources were still low compared with those of other information services.
68. Mr. ARAD (Israel) said that his delegation would vote against section 27 because some DPI programmes were still being used to continue the war of propaganda against Israel.
69. Miss DURRANT (Jamaica) said that her delegation was especially satisfied with the DPI programmes for the English-speaking Caribbean region and would therefore vote in favour of section 27. However, that vote did not at the same time imply approval of the proposed restructuring of the Radio and Visual Services Division, which her delegation assumed would be considered by the Fifth Committee once the Special Political Committee had completed its discussion of the matter. In addition, her delegation was confident that, in implementing the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/82 on programming in Creole and Papiamentu, the Secretariat would consider the comments made in the Fifth Committee, especially concerning maintenance of the P-3 post whose abolition was proposed, instead of recruiting temporary assistance, at least in 1986.
70. Mr. LADJOUZI (Algeria) said that his delegation would vote in favour of section 27, but that its vote did not mean that it accepted limitation of some information activities to English and French. For example, it was to be hoped that the Secretariat would soon consider the possibility of publishing press releases in Arabic as well.
71. Mr. MURRAY (Trinidad and Tobago), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that although his delegation shared the concerns expressed by other delegations about section 27 of the proposed programme budget, it recognized that public information activities were an important contribution to the Organization's work. His delegation therefore supported those activities and would vote in favour of the recommended estimate for section 27.
72. Mr. KAZEMBE (Zambia), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that even though his delegation considered that more resources should be allotted to the information centres, it would vote in favour of the estimate for section 27.

73. Mr. VAHER (Canada), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that, since public information activities could not yet be considered sufficiently cost-efficient, his delegation felt obliged to abstain in the vote on section 27 of the proposed budget.

74. Mr. SWEISI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that his delegation fully supported the comments made by the representative of Algeria and would vote in favour of section 27.

75. Mr. JEMAIEL (Tunisia), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that public information activities gave developing countries access to very valuable sources of information. His delegation would therefore vote in favour of section 27.

76. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on section 27 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Italy, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

77. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$75,673,100 under section 27 for the biennium 1986-1987 was approved in first reading by 75 votes to 2, with 19 abstentions.

78. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote after the vote, said that, although his delegation welcomed the 0.3 per cent reduction in the estimates under section 27 and the initiatives to streamline existing programmes, especially the work of the Planning, Programming and

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Evaluation Unit, it considered that much remained to be done if DPI was to use its resources efficiently. For example, more savings could be effected by reducing the travel of staff members to service meetings. The General Assembly had thus far approved considerable additional resources for DPI, and it was to be hoped that that practice would not be repeated in the next biennium. His delegation was concerned about the many instructions issued by the General Assembly asking DPI to attach unjustified importance to specific political matters. His delegation had therefore voted against approval of paragraph 695 of the CPC report and section 27 of proposed programme budget.

79. Mr. TAKASU (Japan), speaking in explanation of vote after the vote, said that public information activities were extremely important and that his delegation had therefore voted in favour of section 27. However, it was concerned about three matters. First, there were too many information activities in other Secretariat departments; those activities should be better co-ordinated. Second, information activities should be more closely supervised and ranked in order of priority. Lastly, a greater effort should be made to eliminate the backlog regarding the Yearbook of the United Nations.

80. Mr. HOLBORN (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking in explanation of vote after the vote, said that, as in previous years, his delegation had abstained in the vote on section 27, since it continued to disagree with DPI programmes. The negative growth in estimates for that section was encouraging, but much remained to be done to improve public information activities.

81. Mr. VAN DEN HOUT (Netherlands), speaking in explanation of vote after the vote, said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on section 27 because there was a need for greater cost-efficiency and increased rationalization in public information activities.

82. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly on the Programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 should include a section on the Yearbook of the United Nations which could read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/40/37) on the Yearbook of the United Nations,

"Concurring in the observations of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 27.42 and 27.43 of its report,

"1. Decides that the Yearbook shall be issued in abbreviated editions until such time as the backlog has been eliminated."

The meeting rose at 10.10 p.m.