



FIFTH COMMITTEE
21st meeting
held on
Monday, 26 October 1981
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 100: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983 (continued)
(A/36/6, A/36/7, A/36/38)

First reading (continued)

Section 4. Policy making organs (economic and social activities)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the consultations between the officers of the Committee, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination concerning the CPC recommendations on section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 had not yet been completed. He therefore invited the Committee to begin consideration of section 4.
2. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee was recommending approval of an appropriation of \$1,431,600 under section 4, which was \$384,900 less than the amount requested by the Secretary-General (\$1,816,500).
3. The Advisory Committee had considered the estimates relating to the two sessions of the Economic and Social Council to be held in Geneva in 1982 and 1983 (A/36/7, para. 4.4), and was convinced, in the light of the additional information it had requested concerning travel expenses for staff who would be sent to Geneva to service the two sessions, that there was room for reductions. Accordingly, it was recommending that the Secretary-General's request should be reduced by \$39,000 at 1982-1983 rates.
4. He drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that when the Advisory Committee had considered the estimate for the World Assembly on Aging, the dates of the Assembly had not yet been set. The Advisory Committee recommended that the resources necessary for the Assembly should be considered later during the current session on the basis of the special report to be submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary General. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended a provisional reduction of \$256,300 in the estimate for the World Assembly.
5. In paragraph 4.6 of its report, the Advisory Committee provided information on the Secretary-General's estimate for the travel of staff to meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC). As ACC was a Secretariat co-ordinating body and not a policy-making organ, the Advisory Committee recommended that the travel and subsistence costs of the staff of the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters who would service the ACC meetings should be reflected under section 8, and not section 4, and that an amount of \$60,000 should be approved for that purpose.

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(Mr. Mselle, Chairman of the Advisory Committee
on Administrative and Budgetary Questions)

6. In addition, in paragraphs 4.5, 4.8 and 4.9 of its report, the Advisory Committee recommended various minor reductions totalling \$11,000.

7. Mrs. HOUSHOLDER (United States of America) proposed that the estimate to cover the travel and subsistence expenses of representatives of Member States on the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination should be deleted, since they attended sessions of the CPC as representatives of their Governments and not as experts. Her delegation also felt that the appropriation for the World Assembly on Aging should not exceed the original estimate of \$399,300.

8. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that in its resolution 31/93, paragraph 12, the General Assembly had authorized, as a special exception, payment of the travel and subsistence expenses of the members of the CPC.

9. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) said he thought that that practice should be continued.

10. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said he doubted whether the Committee could so easily rescind a decision taken by the General Assembly. The Assembly had decided that the Organization should bear the travel expenses of representatives in order to encourage the participation of developing countries in the work of CPC.

11. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) recalled that Poland had not voted for paragraph 12 of resolution 31/93 when it had been adopted by the General Assembly. Nevertheless, he agreed with the representative of Morocco that it was not for the Committee to change a General Assembly resolution.

12. Mr. BELYAEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that he could not agree with the appropriation in question, and he supported the United States representative. He reminded the Committee that reimbursement of the travel expenses of representatives to CPC had been approved for an experimental period and subject to review by the General Assembly. He wondered whether the objectives sought by the General Assembly had been attained, and he believed that the arrangement would have to be reviewed.

13. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee, in view of the United States representative's proposal, to vote on the Secretary-General's request for an appropriation of \$87,100 to cover the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative of each Member State on the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

14. An appropriation in the amount of \$87,100 under section 4 for travel and subsistence of one representative of each Member State on the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination was approved in first reading by 74 votes to 7, with 2 abstentions.

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15. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland), speaking in explanation of the vote, said that his delegation had abstained for procedural reasons. Inasmuch as the request for an appropriation resulted from a decision currently in force, it seemed to him that that decision would first have had to be amended, after which the Committee could have taken a decision on the financial implications of the amendment.

16. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that his delegation had voted for the appropriation because it considered that the implementation of resolution 31/93 had produced good results by enabling developing countries to be represented by specialists at CPC sessions.

17. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that, if he had been present during the voting, he would have voted for the appropriation.

18. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that, although his delegation had voted for the appropriation, it hoped that the matter would be reviewed.

19. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision on the total estimates submitted by the Secretary-General under section 4.

20. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$1,431,600 under section 4 for the biennium 1982-1983 was approved in first reading without a vote.

Section 5A. Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation

21. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General was asking for an appropriation of \$3,026,100 for the section. The Advisory Committee recommended that the amount be reduced by \$6,900. The \$2,900 for travel of staff to service meetings was attributable to the World Assembly on Aging in 1982. For the reasons given in paragraph 4.12 of its report (A/36/7), the Advisory Committee recommended that that sum should be deleted. Furthermore, the Committee considered that the estimate for communications should be reduced by \$4,000, for the reasons given in paragraph 17 of chapter I of its report. Thus, in all the Advisory Committee recommended the approval of an appropriation of \$3,019,200 under section 5A of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983.

22. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$3,019,200 under section 5A for the biennium 1982-1983 was approved in first reading without a vote.

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Section 5B. Centre for Science and Technology for Development

23. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General was requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$3,719,500 under section 5B, and the Advisory Committee recommended that that amount should be reduced by \$61,400. As explained in paragraph 5B.4 of its report (A/36/7), the Advisory Committee had noted that the Secretary-General had proposed an estimate of \$359,600 for travel and subsistence for the members of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development and its ad hoc panels of specialists and for the Centre's staff to service meetings. But the Advisory Committee had been informed by the Secretary-General's representative that the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development had decided to reduce the number of sessions of the ad hoc panels in 1982-1983 from eight to four. The Advisory Committee was accordingly recommending that the appropriation requested should be reduced by \$60,400.

24. Furthermore, for the reasons given in paragraph 17 of chapter I of its report, the Advisory Committee was recommending (para. 5B.9) that the estimate for communications should be reduced by \$1,000.

25. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden) said that he agreed to the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee and was sure that the Centre for Science and Technology for Development would find the resources allocated to it sufficient to be able to perform its work in the most efficient manner.

26. Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) said he would like to stress that the delegation of developing countries took a keen interest in the programmes carried out by the Centre. He hoped that the Centre would be able to complete its programmes with the resources allocated to it. However, he agreed to the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee.

27. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) agreed with the representative of Kenya that the work of the Centre was of particular importance. He recalled that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had made the activities of the Centre a high-priority programme.

28. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) said that he agreed to the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee and was sure that the Centre would still be able to carry out its task.

29. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$3,658,100 under section 5B for the biennium 1982-1983 was approved in first reading without a vote.

30. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco), speaking in explanation of vote, said he was sure that the reduction which had just been imposed on the Centre's budget would not hamper the performance of the work entrusted to the Centre. On the contrary, he hoped that its activities would be expanded to meet the expectations of the developing countries.

Section 6. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

31. The CHAIRMAN said that consultations on how to deal with the recommendations submitted by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in its report (A/36/38) were continuing. The consideration of section 6 would be affected by what action was to be taken on those recommendations and what procedure was to be followed. He therefore suggested that the meeting should be adjourned to enable informal consultations on the CPC recommendations to continue.

32. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.