



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland)

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.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN expressed his sincere thanks for his election, and also thanked the representative of the Sudan for having proposed his candidacy. In assuming his office he would draw upon the experience of previous Chairmen, especially his immediate predecessor Mr. Abdalla of the Sudan, but also Mr. Buj-Flores of Mexico and Mr. Pirson of Belgium, to all of whom he paid tribute.

2. Despite the fact that it was an off-budget year, the Committee had been allocated a heavy agenda of items. In the past, the Committee had had difficulty in concluding its work on time, as a result the General Assembly had had to be extended or the consideration of some items postponed. The major causes of difficulty were the loaded agenda and the procedure of the Committee, which had to approve the financial implications of decisions and resolutions originating in other Committees; they tended to accumulate, leading to congestion during the last weeks of the Assembly session. He intended to call the attention of the President of the General Assembly and the Chairmen of the Main Committees to that problem, and to ask them to try to organize the work of those bodies in a manner that would allow some staggering of the consideration of financial implications. The Committee, for its part, must use the time allotted to it more effectively. In accordance with its good practice, it should proceed to take up as many items as possible and, if any particular problem arose on any item, rather than engaging in a protracted discussion, consideration of that item should be suspended in order to carry out the necessary consultations. He would also have a close look at the problem of documentation, which posed a perennial problem for the Committee, and would report on his findings.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMEN AND RAPPORTEUR

3. Mr. SURIAHTMADJA (Indonesia) nominated Mr. Maycock (Barbados) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

4. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand) nominated Mr. Kuyama (Japan) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

5. Mr. Maycock (Barbados) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

6. Mr. Kuyama (Japan) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

7. Miss ZANABRIA (Peru) nominated Mr. El Safty (Egypt) for the office of Rapporteur.

8. Mr. El Safty (Egypt) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/37/250 and A/C.5/37/9)

9. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to a letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.5/37/9) which contained the list of agenda items allocated to the Fifth Committee, and referred in particular to the last paragraph thereof concerning the recommendations on the organization of the session contained in section II of document A/37/250. By and large, those recommendations reaffirmed the provisions embodied in decision 34/401 of the General Assembly, the relevant parts of which had been incorporated in annex VI to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly (A/520/Rev.14).

10. Among those recommendations he wished to stress promptness in beginning meetings, and the rule that delegations should explain their votes only once, either in the Committee or in Plenary. In that respect, the Fifth Committee would continue its practice of indicating in its reports to the Plenary those delegations which had already explained their votes. He also recalled paragraphs 13 (especially subparagraph (b)), 14, 16 and 21 of decision 34/401, and paragraph 7 of document A/37/250.

11. Lastly, he proposed that the Committee should continue to enforce the practices which it had adopted over the past few years, namely (a) to close the list of speakers on each main agenda item not later than 48 hours following its introduction; (b) to hear speakers in the order in which delegations had entered their names on the list of speakers - if a delegation was not present when it was called upon to speak, it would go to the end of the list; (c) to authorize the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly on all items considered unless, in a particular case, the Committee decided to include a summary of the debate in its report.

12. He said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to endorse the suggestions that he had made on the organization of work.

13. It was so decided.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that, in keeping with normal practice, the Secretary of the Committee had provided a tentative schedule of work for the thirty-seventh session in the form of a chart. Delegates would shortly be provided with a complete list of the documentation to be submitted to the Committee - with the exception of the statements of administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions recommended by other Main Committees - showing the anticipated dates of publication.

15. With respect to agenda item 103 (Programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983), the Committee would be considering a number of reports from the Secretary-General and from certain subsidiary organs, as well as the statements of administrative and financial implications. Each report would be considered as soon as it became available and as soon as the related report of the Advisory Committee was to hand. At the end of its work, the Committee would recommend a revised budget appropriation for the biennium 1982-1983, encompassing the original budgetary appropriations approved at the thirty-sixth session, together with all the additional appropriations or reductions that might be approved in the course of the

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(The Chairman)

current session. Item 8 (b) (Subsidiary organs of the General Assembly) was not shown on the chart because it would be considered within the framework of item 108 (Pattern of conferences). The various chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council which had been referred to the Committee would be considered in conjunction with the items to which they related.

16. The Secretary-General had informed the Assembly that Mr. Lucio García del Solar (Argentina) had resigned from membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and that the Government of Argentina had nominated a candidate to fill the unexpired portion of his term (A/37/181/Add.1 and A/C.5/37/8). He suggested that the Committee should hold the by-election, under agenda item 17 (a), at its next meeting.

17. Lastly, he announced the intention of the Secretary-General to appear before the Committee on 15 October at 10.30 a.m. in order to make a statement on administrative and financial questions.

18. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that, in his opinion, the extremely important items 110 (Scale of assessments) and 111 (Personnel questions) had not been properly allocated in the tentative programme of work; that was particularly true of the latter. In his statement to the Committee the Secretary-General would doubtless refer to personnel questions, it would therefore be better for the Committee to take up the item earlier, in order to be prepared. He wondered whether there was any real reason why such an important item should be deferred until November, towards the end of the Committee's deliberations when members might perhaps be tired.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that the intention had been to avoid overlapping in the consideration of the major items and account had also been taken of the availability of documentation. However, the comment of the representative of Morocco was valid and the matter would be considered later.

20. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) asked whether the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit mentioned at the bottom of the chart showing the programme of work were the ones considered at the thirty-sixth session, or whether they were new reports. He also noted that items 108 (Pattern of conferences) and 109 (Control and limitation of documentation) had been shown as beginning and ending on the same date, and he wondered whether it was really hoped to complete consideration of both simultaneously.

21. The CHAIRMAN replied that the Joint Inspection Unit reports were new. As for the simultaneous consideration of items 108 and 109, they had been deliberately scheduled that way because they were interrelated.

22. Mr. PAL (India) said that, in view of the note on item 104 which appeared in document A/C.5/37/9 on item 104, with particular reference to the medium-term plan, he wondered how the Fifth Committee would go about dealing with that item.

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23. The CHAIRMAN said that he was unable to give a precise answer at that stage. However, when the same question had been raised in the General Assembly the President had confirmed that the item would be divided among the Main Committees, without giving any further details. He would attempt to obtain more precise information in that respect.

24. Finally, he said that it would be appreciated in planning the Committee's future work if the Secretary could be given an indication, as early as possible, of the number of speakers wishing to speak on each item.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.