



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland)
later: Mr. HAYCOCK (Barbados)

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

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 105: FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AGENDA ITEM 103: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983 (continued)

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted in document A/37/L.1/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 20 (The situation in Kampuchea)

Review of the financing of the administrative costs of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS (continued)

- (a) APPOINTMENT OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (continued)
- (b) APPOINTMENT OF SIX MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 105: FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

(a) REPORT OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/c.5/37/15 and Corr.1)

1. Mr. MANSOURI (Syrian Arab Republic) noted that it was stated in annex I of document A/C.5/37/15 that his country had not yet paid its contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations. That delay was due to purely administrative reasons and the amount owing would be paid shortly.

2. His delegation was extremely concerned about the financial emergency of the United Nations. A deficit of over \$300 million was foreseen for the end of the year, and the situation might become worse if nothing was done to correct it. It was essential to find new sources of revenue in the form of voluntary contributions, sanctions obliging aggressor countries to finance peace-keeping operations necessitated by their aggression, or postage stamp issues.

3. Mr. ENOUDIEN (Nigeria) called on all Member States to make every effort to assist the United Nations to overcome its financial emergency. With regard to his country's contribution, he informed the Committee that over the past two weeks his Government had paid an amount of \$1.5 million. The delay was due to the fact that it had been necessary to reconcile the accounts with Secretariat officials. The balance would be paid as soon as the reconciliation had been completed.

4. Mr. OUEIDAT (Lebanon) said that recent events had prevented the authorities in his country from paying Lebanon's contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations.

5. Mr. HADID (Algeria) announced that his country's contribution had just been paid; the delay in payment had been due to purely administrative reasons.

AGENDA ITEM 103: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1982-1983 (continued)

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted in document A/37/L.1/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 20 (The situation in Kampuchea)
(A/37/L.1/Rev.1; A/C.5/37/21)

6. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that ACABQ had considered document A/C.5/37/21 and had talked to the Secretary-General's representative concerned with the matter. In paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/37/L.1/Rev.1, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to consult with and assist the Conference and the Ad Hoc Committee and to provide them on a regular basis with the necessary facilities to carry out their functions. In response to that request, in paragraph 12 of his statement of administrative and financial implications, the Secretary-General envisaged the

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(Mr. Mselle)

creation of one temporary D-1 post and one temporary General Service post. ACABQ recommended that the Fifth Committee authorize the necessary appropriations for the creation of those two posts.

7. With regard to the costs associated with the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee, indicated in paragraph 12, ACABQ recommended approval of the amount of \$183,400 under section 1, and that the costs to be met under section 28 D be reduced from \$22,500 to \$15,000. The amount of \$299,500 under section 29 would be considered within the framework of the consolidated statement of total conference-servicing costs for 1983. It also recommended approval of an appropriation of \$27,000 under section 31, offset by an identical amount in income section 1.

8. Since the date and place of the International Conference on Kampuchea had not yet been decided, the Secretary-General had prepared three estimates, which appeared in table 2 of annex II of document A/C.5/37/21. Travel costs for the Conference were given in annex III of the same document. ACABQ recommended that those amounts be considered in the context of the resolution of unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1982-1983. When the venue for the Conference had been decided, the Secretary-General would ask ACABQ to authorize the necessary commitment of funds.

9. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that he did not want to oppose a consensus on the document before the Committee, but that he was not convinced of the need for a new D-1 post. In that connection, he noted that the post was being proposed only as a temporary measure.

10. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the countries in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that it appeared from paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/37/21 that the functioning of the Ad Hoc Committee left much to be desired. The work-load and nature of the Ad Hoc Committee's activities required a continuity of staff specifically assigned to service it. Consequently, the ASEAN countries were in favour of the creation of the posts requested by the Secretary-General.

11. If the International Conference on Kampuchea was reconvened, it was understood that the necessary financing would be made available and that the Secretary-General would submit his expenditure estimates to the Advisory Committee in accordance with the established procedure. In that spirit, the ASEAN countries hoped that the Fifth Committee would approve the statement submitted by the Secretary-General and the comments made on it by ACABQ.

12. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden), referring to paragraph 10 (i) of document A/C.5/37/21, asked whether interpretation into Chinese was really necessary, since China was not a member of the Ad Hoc Committee.

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13. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division) replied that, as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, the Ad Hoc Committee was entitled to interpretation services in the six official languages of the General Assembly. It could, of course, waive that right and, if it did so, the Secretariat would take that fact into account at the appropriate time. Nevertheless, the Budget Division had to submit to the General Assembly the theoretical full cost of services for the Ad Hoc Committee and it had been the responsibility of the Secretariat to indicate the cost of all the services to which that Committee was entitled.

14. Mr. SHUSTOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, as a matter of principle, his delegation had always opposed any measure related to the so-called International Conference on Kampuchea. Consequently, it would vote against the appropriation requested.

15. From a strictly financial viewpoint, his delegation believed that the greatest caution was necessary in the consideration of measures with financial implications, particularly in the case of the Ad Hoc Committee. Experience showed that the Ad Hoc Committee's activities had achieved neither the normalization of the situation nor the strengthening of security in the region, and no improvement in that respect could be expected for 1983. Any expenditure devoted to that Committee would therefore be unjustified. As indicated in paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/37/21, in 1981 the servicing requirements of the Ad Hoc Committee had been provided by staff seconded from different offices. Neither the work-load nor the results obtained by the Ad Hoc Committee showed any change, and it would be wrong to incur additional expenses in view of the financial emergency of the United Nations.

16. Mr. WANG Chengwei (China) supported draft resolution A/37/L.1/Rev.1, its sponsors included the members of ASEAN. He also endorsed the statement of administrative and financial implications submitted in that connection by the Secretary-General and the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee. The draft resolution was in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its preceding three sessions and at the international conferences on Kampuchea; in addition, it was likely to contribute to a peaceful settlement of the problem. With regard to the financial implications, the Chinese delegation believed that all Member States should give their support to activities which were in conformity with the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter and which were designed to guarantee international peace and security.

17. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee take a decision on the administrative and financial implications under consideration and inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/37/L.1/Rev.1, an additional appropriation of \$198,400 would be required for the biennium 1982-1983 - \$183,400 under section 1 and \$15,000 under section 28 D. An additional appropriation of \$27,000 would also be required under section 31, offset by an increase of the same amount under income section 1.

18. The related conference-servicing costs had been estimated on a full-cost basis at \$299,500; they would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing costs to be submitted towards the end of the session of the General Assembly.

(The Chairman)

19. With regard to the costs of the International Conference on Kampuchea, he said that, since no decision had yet been taken on the venue or timing of the Conference, the Fifth Committee could recommend that the Secretary-General should be authorized to enter into the necessary commitments with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, under the terms of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

20. Mr. RICHTER (German Democratic Republic), explaining his vote before the vote, restated the position put forward by his delegation during the debate on the situation in Kampuchea, namely that discussion of the so-called question not only ran counter to all the efforts made to normalize the situation in South-East Asia but also constituted a serious violation of the United Nations Charter, and of the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign States in particular. His delegation would therefore vote against the statement of financial implications in document A/C.5/37/21.

21. Mr. OKLESTEK (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation would vote against the statement of financial implications for political reasons - the draft resolution constituted interference in the domestic affairs of a State - and because the Organization was in financial difficulties. The Fifth Committee should ensure that the Organization made the best use of its resources, which meant carrying out its tasks, not engaging in activities that contravened the Charter.

22. Mr. FONTAINE ORTIZ (Cuba) said that the resources which some wanted to squander on an activity that was detrimental to development and peace should be used to improve the living conditions of the Kampuchean people. In the circumstances, his delegation would vote against the statement of administrative and financial implications.

23. Mr. GUBCSI (Hungary) reaffirmed his Government's position on the situation in Kampuchea, which had been expressed forcibly in the debate in the plenary Assembly, and said that his delegation would vote against the statement of administrative and financial implications.

24. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) stated anew his Government's belief, which was that the solution to the Kampuchean problem should take duly into account the profound and legitimate aspirations of all the parties, especially those most directly affected, namely the countries of Indo-China and ASEAN. The draft resolution in document A/37/L.1/Rev.1 did not guide the international community in that direction. The so-called International Conference on Kampuchea, whose reconvening was demanded by only one of the parties concerned, had merely exacerbated the tension. The Ad Hoc Committee, whose Chairman was clearly biased in favour of one of the parties, met only to uphold the cause of that party. Consequently, his delegation saw no merit in agreeing to the vast expenditure which would be incurred if the Conference was reconvened. It would vote against the statement of administrative and financial implications.

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25. Mr. PLYUSHKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) regretted that some Member States were endeavouring to use the Organization as an instrument for interfering in the domestic affairs of a Member State under the guise of convening a conference on Kampuchea and establishing an ad hoc special committee. Both those activities were illegal and his delegation would therefore vote against the statement of administrative and financial implications.

26. Mr. HAKIM (Afghanistan) said that, in view of the financial difficulties of the Organization, the expenditure proposed was not justified and he would vote against it.

27. Mr. BENZEITUN (Libya Arab Jamahiriya) said that he would vote against the statement of administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/37/L.1/Rev.1 because his delegation was firmly opposed to any interference in the domestic affairs of States.

28. Mr. TOMASZEWSKI said that the Polish delegation had joined with others in expressing vigorous opposition to the inclusion of the item on Kampuchea in the General Assembly's agenda at a time when it seemed likely that the countries concerned would resume their talks. His delegation was firmly convinced that neither the proposed Conference nor the Ad Hoc Committee would achieve the goal laid down in draft resolution A/37/L.1/Rev.1. Bearing in mind also the grave financial crisis through which the Organization was passing, his delegation would vote against the statement of administrative and financial implications.

29. Mr. HOANG HAI (Viet Nam) said that his delegation would vote against draft resolution A/37/L.1/Rev.1 and against its administrative and financial implications. To reconvene the Conference on Kampuchea would be tantamount to a flagrant interference in the domestic affairs of that country and would infringe the provisions of the Charter. It defied comprehension that the Organization's funds should be squandered in such a way when it showed a deficit. He would therefore vote against the statement of administrative and financial implications.

30. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) said that, as the political aspects of the problem were to be discussed by the plenary assembly, he would confine his attention strictly to the administrative and financial aspects. His delegation would vote in favour of the appropriations requested by the Secretary-General, subject to the observations of the Advisory Committee.

31. Mr. BELYAEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation was strongly opposed to the discussion by the General Assembly of the so-called situation in Kampuchea. Such discussion ran counter to the wishes of the Kampuchean people and their legitimate Government. The measures contemplated constituted interference in the domestic affairs of a sovereign State. For that reason, and because of the Organization's financial situation, his delegation would vote against the squandering of United Nations resources.

32. At the request of the representative of Viet Nam, supported by the representative of the Soviet Union, a recorded vote was taken on the statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.5/37/21) of the draft resolution in document A/37/L.1/Rev.1

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In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Comoros, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mozambique, Poland, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam.

Abstaining: Algeria, India, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania.

33. The administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/37/L.1/Rev.1 set forth in document A/C.5/37/21 were approved by 87 votes to 20, with 7 abstentions.

34. Mr. ALOUIDOR (Haiti) said that his delegation, which was a sponsor of draft resolution A/37/L.1/Rev.1, had voted against the administrative and financial implications of the draft by mistake.

35. Mr. ABOLY (Ivory Coast) and Mrs. INCERA (Costa Rica) said that if their delegations had been present at the time of the vote, they would have voted for the approval of the administrative and financial implications.

36. Mrs. de HEDERVARY (Belgium) pointed out that Belgium was a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Kampuchean issue and in that connection asked the Secretary-General to choose the least burdensome of the three possibilities presented in annex II, table 2 of document A/C.5/37/21.

Review of the financing of the administrative costs of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (continued) (A/37/7/Add.3; A/C.5/37/1 and Corr.1, A/C.5/37/22)

37. Mr. YAKOVENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the conclusions reached in the joint review of the financing of the administrative costs of the

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(Mr. Yakovenko, USSR)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) carried out by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner, which were presented in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/37/1, were highly questionable. They showed a regrettable failure to distinguish between the administrative costs of UNHCR relating to the functioning of the Office and the costs relating to UNHCR's activities in the field, which included all the costs of aid to refugees and the administrative costs of operational activities. Those were, in fact, two separate concepts, and the failure to keep them separate was leading to false conclusions.

38. The new apportionment of UNHCR's administrative costs between the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources proposed in annex I to the Secretary-General's report revealed that 170 Professional posts associated with administrative functions would be financed from the regular budget, while 202 Professional posts relating to operational activities would be funded from voluntary contributions. Administrative costs would thus be on the order of 46 per cent of UNHCR's total expenditure. That was an abnormally high proportion, and no more acceptable in an international organization than a national administration.

39. Paragraph 36 of the Secretary-General's report said that the High Commissioner's 57 representatives and chargés de mission in the field were engaged exclusively in administrative tasks. That was incorrect: they were in fact responsible for organizing the assistance provided to refugees in the field, and were thus engaged in operational activities which were normally financed from extrabudgetary resources.

40. In general, the conclusions of the joint study by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner suffered from a lack of logic. While the Advisory Committee argued that when operational activities occupied a major part of UNHCR officials' time, the corresponding costs should be financed from extrabudgetary funds - which would appear to justify a transfer of posts from the regular budget to extrabudgetary resources - the report contained a recommendation to the opposite effect: it proposed transferring 65 Professional posts currently funded from voluntary contributions to the regular budget. It should be remembered in that connection that a large group of countries, including many developing countries, had been calling in recent years for a freeze or reduction in the administrative costs borne by the regular budget of the United Nations. The Secretary-General's proposals would increase UNHCR's administrative costs at a time when UNHCR was having to cut back on its operational activities. That situation was unacceptable.

41. In paragraphs 54 and 55 of his report, the Secretary-General suggested a new procedure for financing posts in UNHCR: the Office would become involved in preparing proposals for the transfer of UNHCR posts to the regular budget. His delegation wished to point out that UNHCR was not a part of the United Nations Secretariat. It was not, therefore, any part of the Office's job to draft proposals for submission to the General Assembly in the name of the Secretary-General. Indeed, the role of UNHCR was to present recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the proposals submitted by the Secretary-General. The proposed procedure was, therefore, unsuitable.

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(Mr. Yakovenko, USSR)

42. In the past his delegation had objected to the transfer of posts to the regular budget of the Organization, and had withheld the corresponding sums from its contributions. It continued to oppose the transfers called for in the Secretary-General's report; it could support neither the recommendations of the Secretary-General nor the Advisory Committee's conclusions.

43. Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand) welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner had reached agreement on the posts to be financed through the regular budget. Thailand, a country of first refuge which still had over 46,000 refugees on its territory, would support all constructive moves to improve the efficiency and functioning of UNHCR by allowing the Office to meet the humanitarian needs of millions of refugees and displaced persons.

44. His delegation wished to commend UNHCR for its efficient management of refugee problems while its staffing table had been frozen for several years and refugee problems in Asia, Africa and elsewhere had increased enormously. His delegation was convinced that the principles outlined in the Secretary-General's report would allow the current division of administrative costs of UNHCR between the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources to be rationalized. It also concurred with the views expressed by the Advisory Committee.

45. Mr. GEBRU (Ethiopia) commented that the rapid growth in UNHCR's humanitarian activities over the past decades had been accompanied by a corresponding growth in the number of administrative personnel at Headquarters and in the field who were responsible for directing UNHCR activities and monitoring their execution. Under article 20 of the Statute of the UNHCR administrative expenditures relating to the functioning of the Office were to be borne on the budget of the United Nations. As the Office had grown to deal with the new tasks assigned to it, article 20 had been subject to differing interpretations in different bodies. The High Commissioner had therefore made use of voluntary contributions to finance certain administrative costs. That practice, if it continued, would steadily reduce the resources available for assistance to refugees.

46. His delegation therefore felt that, over the coming few years, an increasing proportion of UNHCR's administrative costs should be charged to the regular budget of the United Nations. At the same time the High Commissioner's proposal to transfer 65 Professional posts to the regular budget should be regarded favorably since, as the Advisory Committee had pointed out in paragraph 16 of its report, all the posts concerned had been created to deal with new refugee situations.

47. Mr. OUEIDAT (Lebanon) said that his delegation intended to submit a draft decision on the item under consideration. Further consultations were, however, necessary, and he requested that the discussion be adjourned until the following meeting.

48. Mr. WILLIAMS (Panama) said that, according to the report of the High Commissioner to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session, the

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(Mr. Williams, Panama)

number of refugees worldwide was more than 10 million. That figure gave a clear picture of the magnitude of the problem, which had very diverse social, economic and legal aspects. One could therefore readily appreciate the importance of the role played by an organization such as UNHCR and the many tasks of the international civil servants which worked for it. Those tasks were so diversified that it was impossible to distinguish between activities of a purely administrative nature and those which were operational. For that reason, pragmatic solutions to the apportionment of the administrative costs of UNHCR should be found so that a very confused situation could be resolved.

49. His delegation endorsed the conclusions set out in the Secretary-General's report and the related comments of the Advisory Committee. He considered that the proposed transfer of Professional posts to the regular budget was completely justified and that it should help to place the financing of the administrative costs of UNHCR on a rational basis.

50. Mr. RUEDAS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management), replying to the question asked previously by the representative of Belgium concerning the information provided by the Secretary-General in paragraph 49 of his report (A/C.5/37/1), explained that, contrary to what the figures might suggest, Professional posts were not automatically considered "administrative" and hence to be financed from the regular budget, nor were General Service posts automatically regarded as "operational" and hence falling within the sphere of extra-budgetary financing. The figures furnished by the Secretary-General were the net result of various transfers of posts in the two categories between the two sources of financing. The Secretariat was prepared to make available to members of the Committee the details of those transfers.

AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS (continued)

(a) APPOINTMENT OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (continued) (A/37/181 and Add.1; A/C.5/37/19)

51. Mr. Maycock (Barbados) took the Chair.

52. The CHAIRMAN said that, as indicated in document A/37/181, the General Assembly was required at its current session to appoint five persons to fill vacancies in the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions arising as a result of the expiry on 31 December 1981 of the terms of office of five of the current members. In document A/C.5/37/19, the Secretary-General indicated the names of the persons nominated by their respective Governments for appointment or reappointment.

53. Since the number of candidates was equal to the number of seats to be filled, he took it that the Committee wished to dispense with a secret ballot, as recommended by the General Assembly in paragraph 16 of the decision 34/401.

54. It was so decided.

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55. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Assembly should appoint the persons listed in the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/37/19) as members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

56. It was so decided.

57. The CHAIRMAN said that the General Assembly was also required at its current session to appoint one person to fill the seat on the Advisory Committee which would become vacant as a result of the resignation of Mr. Williams (Panama) to serve the remaining portion of his term. In paragraph 4 of the note he had referred to earlier, the Secretary-General indicated that the Government of Brazil had nominated Mr. Samuel Pinheiro Guimaraes Neto.

58. Since there was only one candidate for the vacancy, he proposed that the Committee should dispense with a secret ballot.

59. It was so decided.

50. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Assembly should appoint Mr. Samuel Pinheiro Guimaraes Neto to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a term beginning on 1 January 1983 and expiring on 31 December 1983.

51. It was so decided.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF SIX MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS (A/37/182; A/C.5/37/20)

52. The CHAIRMAN said that, as indicated in document A/37/182, the General Assembly was required at its current session to appoint six persons to fill vacancies in the Committee on Contributions arising as a result of the expiry on 31 December 1982 of the terms of office of six of its current members. In document A/C.5/37/20, the Secretary-General indicated the names of the persons nominated by their respective Governments for appointment or reappointment.

53. Since the number of candidates was equal to the number of seats to be filled, he proposed that the Committee should dispense with a secret ballot.

54. It was so decided.

55. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Assembly should appoint the persons indicated in the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/37/20) as members of the Committee on Contributions for a term of office beginning on 1 January 1983.

56. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.