



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 22nd 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.

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

(A/C.5/37/15 and Corr.1)

1. Mr. MORENO-SALCEDO (Philippines) said that although six years had passed since the item was first included in the agenda of the General Assembly the need to take concrete measures to alleviate the crisis was as pressing as ever. It was alarming to note that the deficit of the Organization had grown from \$274 million in 1981 to a projected \$303 million by the end of 1982. At that rate, the deficit might reach half a billion dollars by the end of the decade. Two-thirds of the deficit was attributable to the refusal of certain Member States to pay their contributions pertaining to peace-keeping operations in spite of the fact that the International Court of Justice, in an advisory opinion of 1962, had declared that the General Assembly could assess Member States for peace-keeping operations. Since it seemed unlikely that the deficit would be covered by voluntary contributions, urgent action must be taken to relieve the United Nations of that burden. He recalled the three measures recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, namely, (i) that payment of assessed contributions be made promptly in accordance with financial regulation 5.4 (ii) that the provisions of financial regulations 5.2 (d), 4.3 and 4.4 be suspended; (iii) that the Working Capital Fund be increased from \$40 million to \$100 million.

2. Those suggestions - particularly the first - were quite reasonable. Indeed prompt payment of contributions would solve the cash liquidity problem of the Organization and would save the Secretary-General having to borrow, from other organizations, funds on which interest had to be paid. However, despite repeated appeals by the Secretary-General the rate of payment in 1982 had decreased to the lowest level of any recent year imperiling the solvency of the General Fund and threatening to affect day-to-day operations. Members of the Committee should take note of the suggestion of the Secretary-General in paragraph 11 of his report that "Member States might wish to consider the need for collective action to reverse the steadily worsening rate of payment of contributions to most of the organizations of the United Nations".

3. His delegation agreed with the interpretation given by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee regarding the suspension of certain regulations and accepted by the representative of the Secretary-General.

4. The increase of the Working Capital Fund when assessed contributions were credited to it would offer only temporary relief since the \$100 million represented only two months of the Organization's expenses. But if the measure could provide a reserve for emergency needs, his delegation would have no objection to the proposed increase.

5. The Secretary-General could explore various other solutions, inter alia the possibility of using more of the non-convertible currencies in his possession to finance programmes of technical assistance in consultation with those Governments

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(Mr. Moreno-Salcedo, Philippines)

which had paid part of their assessed contributions in currencies other than United States dollars.

5a. Given the limited appropriations on hand, the Secretariat should undertake measures for sound financial management while, at the same time, striving for the highest standards of efficiency. Accordingly, it should retain only programmes whose usefulness was recognized so as to avoid waste of scarce resources.

6. While recognizing that a comprehensive solution to the crisis - which was bound to become more acute in the coming years - might not be feasible at the present time, his delegation had no objection to the adoption of new interim measures to avert a further deterioration of the situation. However, those measures must conform with the financial regulations and must be sanctioned by the General Assembly.

7. His delegation hoped that the principle of collective financial responsibility of Member States set forth in the Charter would not be overlooked and that, with the aid of all its members, the Organization could find its way back to financial solvency.

8. Miss GALAL (Egypt) said that the serious financial situation of the United Nations was a source of deep concern to all countries which, like Egypt, saw the Organization as a forum for promoting international co-operation in the political, economic, social and humanitarian fields; it was no secret that the emergency resulted from the withholding of assessed contributions by some Member States and from delayed payments of assessments. Acceptance of the principle of collective financial responsibility was essential to a comprehensive solution but she did not think that all Member States were willing to accept it.

9. Her delegation could see why "matters of principle" might be invoked even though it did not agree with some of those "principles". However, careful thought should be given to the consequences of so drastic a step as the withholding of assessed contributions. All Member States agreed on the need to keep the Organization financially strong and sound as it would otherwise simply cease to exist. Accordingly, an adequate solution must be found, taking into account the collective and divergent interests of all parties concerned. Despite the appeal made by the General Assembly to all Member States to pay future contributions in a timely manner in accordance with financial regulation 5.4, the rate of payment for 1982 had deteriorated further. That was hardly a demonstration of collective financial responsibility.

10. With regard to the request of the General Assembly in resolution 36/116 of 10 December 1981, her delegation was pleased to see that the project concerning the issuance of stamps had been promptly implemented; although modest, the estimated revenue of \$2 million should help alleviate the Organization's financial difficulties somewhat.

11. With regard to the short-term deficit which, projected to 31 December 1982,

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(Miss Galal, Egypt)

amounted to \$303.2 million (an increase of 10.6 per cent over the deficit at 31 December 1981), the report of the Secretary-General indicated that the bulk of the increase pertained to the continued withholding by some Member States of contributions from peace-keeping activities. Was not the maintenance of international peace and security the ultimate goal of the United Nations? If so did not the withholding of contributions by some Member States run counter to that goal? It was disturbing to see that some Member States were beginning to withhold their share for programmes which they had not approved. Her delegation asked all States, particularly those which had resorted extensively to that practice, not to aggravate the present crisis further. She reminded those Member States which had decided only recently to resort to that practice that they had been advocating the principle of collective financial responsibility since 1945.

12. Her delegation confirmed that it had accepted the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 20 July 1962 and she pointed out that the General Assembly itself had accepted the opinion in resolution 1854 (XVII) of 19 December 1962. That resolution was binding on all Member States and they must implement it.

13. Her delegation was convinced that respect for the principle of Member States' collective responsibility would allow the Organization's financial emergency to be resolved. It wished to put forward some proposals for the Committee's consideration. First, the sums withheld by member States should be paid in equal instalments over a period of three to five years, without prejudice, of course, to the positions of principle that those States held. The practice of withholding contributions should be completely stopped. Member States should be invited to pay their assessed contributions as quickly as possible, preferably before 31 January each year; the interest earned by the Organization on early payments should be used to reduce its financial difficulties. Member States, especially those without a deficit in their balance of payments, should be invited to make generous voluntary contributions to help to overcome the emergency. Active consideration should be given to the possibility of issuing new collector stamps and commemorative medals; the proceeds should be assigned solely to dealing with the emergency. Any income from other United Nations activities should be set aside and not surrendered to Member States until the emergency was solved. Finally, countries holding United Nations bonds should consider not claiming their value in full or in part. Her delegation was sure that, by adopting those measures, the United Nations could overcome its financial emergency in a few years, provided that its members showed enough good will.

14. Mr. SLØRDAHL (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, reminded members that in his statement to the Committee on 15 October 1982, the Secretary-General had expressed his deep concern at the rapid increase in the Organization's liabilities and the delay in the payment of contributions, which, in Secretary-General's view, was resulting in a most unhealthy financial situation. The Nordic countries agreed wholeheartedly with that point of view and, during the discussion preceding the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 36/116 B, had expressed their alarm at the possibility that the financial situation

(Mr. Slørdahl, Norway)

at the Organization might deteriorate further despite the corrective measures taken in the resolution. Their fears had, unfortunately, been justified. In his clear and objective analysis of the Organization's financial situation, the Secretary-General said that the rate of payment of contributions for 1982 was the lowest level of any recent year; he also revealed that the projected deficit as of 31 December 1982 would amount to \$303.2 million an increase of \$29.1 million (10.6 per cent) over the deficit on 31 December 1981. It was a distressing development, especially since the bulk of the increase related to unpaid contributions for peace-keeping activities by certain Member States. The deficit created serious difficulties for the entire Organization and was a source of great concern, particularly for the States bearing the burden of the deficit. The Governments of the Nordic countries had on many occasions stressed the principle of the collective financial responsibility of all Member States for United Nations activities, including peace-keeping operations. The reluctance of certain Member States to accept their responsibility, under the Charter of sharing the financial burden of all United Nations activities equitably and complying fully with Financial Regulations was at the root of the Organization's ever increasing deficit.

15. The Nordic countries remained fully committed to the ideals and objectives of the United Nations, and proved as much by paying their share of the costs. As the Secretary-General indicated in his report, Member States had turned a deaf ear to the General Assembly's appeal to them to pay future contributions in good time in accordance with the relevant financial regulations. The Nordic countries believed that, because of its persistent financial difficulties, the United Nations was in danger of losing its ability to carry out the many tasks entrusted to it by the international community, and of losing its effectiveness; if, moreover, the United Nations did not receive the necessary financial support, its credibility and standing could only suffer world-wide. The Nordic countries therefore urged all Member States to live up to their responsibilities and make every effort to participate constructively in the search for a solution to the financial difficulties that the Organization was facing.

16. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) said that in 1981, before the adoption of resolution 36/116 B, his delegation had already been hoping that the gloomy picture painted by the Secretary-General in his analysis of the financial emergency of the United Nations (A/C.5/36/28) would prompt all Member States to pay their contributions to the regular budget of the Organization and the financing of peace-keeping operations quickly and in full.

17. The figures supplied by the Secretary-General in paragraph 8 of his report for 1982 (A/C.5/37/15) were far from satisfactory; credit for the fact that the Organization continued to function at all, was basically due to the skill with which the Secretary-General was shifting resources from one budget item to another.

18. His delegation, which placed great hope in the Organization, had always supported measures to resolve the financial crisis. It had taken part in the work of the Negotiating Committee on the Financial Emergency of the United Nations and, at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, had become a sponsor of

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(Mr. Ziniel, Ghana)

resolution 35/113 on the issuance of postage stamps. In that connection, it noted with satisfaction that the stamps had been printed and would be issued in November 1982. The anticipated net revenue of \$2 million from the issue of the stamps would probably not have a major effect on the Organization's over-all financial situation, but the operation had at least had the merit of drawing attention to the situation. His delegation paid tribute to the Secretary-General and the United Nations Postal Administration for the active part they were playing, alongside Member States, in the search for solutions to the financial problem.

19. While his delegation was satisfied with the positive steps taken by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 35/113, it was very disappointed at the response by Member States to resolution 36/116 B, which they themselves had adopted. Paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's report indicated that the Organization's projected short-term deficit as of 31 December 1982 would amount to \$303.2 million, most of which was due to contributions which Member States continued to withhold for peace-keeping activities, at great danger to the Organization. Although the matter should be discussed under agenda item 114, he wished to point out that the resulting cash-flow problems caused difficulties for the troops-contributing States, many of which were developing countries and needed immediate reimbursement for the sums they advanced. His delegation hoped that the countries which, for political reasons or on principle, had so far refused to finance peace-keeping operations, would show their concern for international peace and security by agreeing to reconsider their position as the People's Republic of China had in 1981. Contrary to what some parties suggested, the cause of the financial emergency did not lie in new decisions by the General Assembly but in the withholding of contributions by certain Member States.

20. Mr. BARTLETT (Jamaica) expressed his satisfaction with the very succinct report presented by the Secretariat (A/C.5/37/15). His delegation could not but deplore the further deterioration in the rate of payment of Member States' assessed contributions and the ensuing aggravation of the financial emergency that had occurred despite the General Assembly's appeal at its thirty-sixth session. It was regrettable that on 30 September 1982 only 50 Member States had paid all their contributions for 1982 while 30 of the remainder had paid only a part. Worse, 58 Member States were behind with their contributions not only for 1982 but also for the previous budget cycles. The delays had forced the Secretariat to borrow funds contributed for other purposes and to delay meeting some obligations, in seven of the first nine months of 1982.

21. His delegation was well aware that certain Member States could not pay their contributions during the first quarter of the calendar year because their budgetary cycles operated on a different basis; it was also aware that many developing countries, including his own, were in such difficult economic circumstances that they were short of foreign exchange. It seemed timely, nevertheless, to reaffirm that if the United Nations was to meet its objectives and carry out the functions on which the well-being of Member States depended, Member States had to pay their contributions as soon as their national budgets were approved. His delegation believed, in fact, that delays were partly due to a communications problem. At the

(Mr. Bartlett, Jamaica)

beginning of the year the Secretary-General informed Missions of the amount of their contributions in notes which asked them to pay rapidly, but Missions forwarded the notes to their respective Governments. Representatives in the Fifth Committee should use all available means to impress on their national authorities, particularly those employed in the ministries of finance and central banks, the importance of paying contributions promptly as the General Assembly requested. He further suggested that the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management should, if he had not already done so, ask resident co-ordinators and representatives to lobby the various officials with whom they came into contact, urging them to give priority to contributions owed to the United Nations when they scheduled budget payments and payments in foreign currency.

22. With regard to the financing of peace-keeping operations, which was the principal reason for the financial emergency of the United Nations, he recalled that in his report on the work of the Organization issued in September, the Secretary-General had paid special attention to peace-keeping operations, indicating that peace-keeping operations had generally been considered to be one of the most successful innovations of the United Nations and that their record over the years was one of which to be proud. The Secretary-General had added that peace-keeping operations had proved to be a most successful instrument of de-escalation and conflict control, and had extended the influence of the Security Council into the field in a unique way, and he had referred to the limitations imposed on peace-keeping operations. Lastly, the Secretary-General had recommended that Member States, especially the members of the Security Council, should again study urgently ways and means of strengthening peace-keeping operations. It would have been useful for the Secretary-General to have referred to the financing of peace-keeping operations as well. Unless Member States were prepared to bear their share of responsibility for the financing of peace-keeping operations, efforts by the Secretary-General and Member States to enhance the ability of the United Nations in that area would be severely hampered. In conclusion, his delegation urged all Member States, in considering follow-up proposals to the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization, to review and, if necessary in the interest of the world community and of the Organization, to modify their policies on the financing of peace-keeping operations.

23. Ms. CONWAY (Ireland) said that her delegation was deeply concerned over the deficit of the United Nations and the threat which it posed to the continued functioning of the Organization. While recognizing that some circumstances might adversely affect the payments of Member States to the Organization, her delegation noted with regret that the decline in the rate of payment begun in previous years had continued, despite the adoption of General Assembly resolution 36/116. The principle of collective financial responsibility imposed an obligation on Member States to pay their assessed contributions in a timely fashion. In that connection her delegation had listened with interest to the positive proposals made by the representatives of Pakistan, Egypt and Jamaica.

24. The Secretary-General's report made it clear that the bulk of the increase in the deficit in 1982 was due to the continued withholding of contributions toward

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(Ms. Conway, Ireland)

peace-keeping activities. One of the conclusions which her country had drawn from its experience with peace-keeping operations was that they must at all times have the firm support of the Organization and a stable financial basis. Under the Charter, responsibility for maintaining peace was shared collectively by all Member States, and it followed that financial responsibility should also be shared equitably by all. Her delegation therefore hoped that Member States might find it possible to review their positions on the issue, and it would support substantive measures which might contribute, even partly, toward resolving the financial difficulties of the Organization.

25. Mr. MATUS (Mexico) said that several important factors had a bearing on the financial emergency of the United Nations, in particular the capacity to pay of Member States and their external indebtedness. Consequently, the expenses of the Organization should be apportioned in accordance with the principles of justice and equity, as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. Referring to paragraph 9 of document A/C.5/37/15, he said that his country had in the meantime paid its contribution. He emphasized the efforts made by his Government to meet its obligations and appealed in a friendly and cordial spirit to Member States which withheld part of their contributions, some of which had substantial resources at their disposal, to help the Organization to resolve the financial emergency it was experiencing.

26. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) concurred with Mr. Ruedas, the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, that the financial situation of the Organization was bleak. The United Nations was suffering from a chronic and worsening financial illness. The cause of that illness was the failure of Member States to meet their commitments, and the responsibility for solving the problem lay squarely with them. If the Financial Regulations were not to be observed by the Member States which had established them, it was all the more important that the funds of the Organization should be spent wisely and effectively.

27. His delegation had reservations about the proposal to introduce a system of incentives for prompt payment of contributions. It was not appropriate to reward Member States for abiding by the existing rules; his delegation found more interesting the system of penalties used by ITU and UPU.

28. Everyone was aware of the gravity of the situation. Careful thought must be given to how the available resources should be deployed before any additional financial burdens were imposed.

29. Mr. van HELLENBERG HUBAR (Netherlands) recalled that at the thirty-sixth session his delegation had stated that the financial emergency was due primarily to the withholding of contributions, a phenomenon which was far too widespread, and that there was no justification for apportioning among all Member States a deficit which was due to the unwarranted attitude of some.

(Mr. van Hellenberg Hubar,  
Netherlands)

30. His delegation, for its part, advocated a system for the payment of contributions by instalments (for example, quarterly), with substantial interest penalties imposed for late payment. Such a system might result in a reduction in available cash but would have the advantage of greater predictability of collections, since the penalties would ensure more regular and larger payments. The introduction of such a system would of course require amendment of the Financial Regulations. His delegation was prepared, once the results of the deliberations of ACC were known, to enter into informal consultations with a view to rectifying the financial situation of the Organization.

31. His proposal was intended not to protect the interests of his country alone but to ensure that the United Nations would make the contribution expected of it in maintaining peace and improving the living conditions of all peoples.

32. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand) said that, like Mr. Ruedas, he considered the financial situation of the United Nations to be bleak. He appealed to all Member States which had not yet done so to pay their assessed contributions for 1982 and to make contributions to increase the Working Capital Fund. His delegation welcomed the constructive suggestions made by representatives of Pakistan, Egypt, Jamaica and the Netherlands and was prepared to co-operate with all interested delegations in seeking measures to remedy the situation.

33. Mr. TURPIN (Senegal) said that the General Assembly had adopted resolution 36/116 in an effort to identify the beginnings of a solution to the cash flow problems of the Organization by calling upon all Member States to pay their contributions in good time. That appeal seemed to have fallen on deaf ears, since the situation had only worsened, as indicated in paragraphs 8, 9, 10 and 15 of the Secretary-General's report. The information provided in paragraph 8, in particular, reflected a trend which his delegation, like many others, deeply regretted. It was hardly encouraging to note that the rate of payment of contributions for the current year had reached its lowest level in a great many years.

34. Several delegations had proposed various measures providing for penalties or incentives. His delegation believed that such measures were not viable and endorsed the proposal made by the representative of the Netherlands concerning the payment of contributions in instalments.

35. His country, for its part, had paid its contribution to the regular budget for 1982 in its entirety, including the balance on its arrears, despite cash flow difficulties. It would continue, in so far as its means permitted, to meet its commitments and appealed to all other Member States to do likewise.

36. Mr. SHAHANKARI (Jordan) said that his delegation was very concerned at the financial emergency of the Organization and appealed to Member States to make every effort to resolve the situation. The Secretary-General's report clearly established that the financial difficulties of the Organization were due to the failure of Member States to pay their contributions in good time. Paragraph 8 of

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(Mr. Shahankari, Jordan)

the report showed that, for the past four years, the rate of payment of contributions had declined markedly. A radical and permanent solution must be found and put into practice. Stopgap measures such as increasing the level of the Working Capital Fund or suspending certain payments would not solve the problem. The only solution was for all Member States to pay their contributions promptly.

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

Review of the financing of the administrative costs of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (continued) (A/37/7/Add.3; A/C.5/37/1 and Corr.1, A/C.5/37/22; A/C.5/37/L.19)

37. Mr. KHARMA (Lebanon), introducing the draft resolution in document A/C.5/37/L.19, co-sponsored by Sweden, said that he had been pleased by the very constructive debate on the agenda item and the humanitarian concern shown by delegations. According to the draft resolution, the General Assembly would take note of the Secretary-General's report on the review of the financing of the administrative costs of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/C.5/37/1), concur in the comments of the Advisory Committee in its report on the matter (A/37/7/Add.3) and endorse the opinion of the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General's proposals for the transfer of posts should be taken on a case-by-case basis in the context of his proposed programme budgets for 1984-1985 and subsequent biennia. He hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

38. Mr. PRODROMOU (Cyprus) said that, according to international law, all refugees who had fled from their homeland had the indisputable right to return to their homes in complete safety. Cyprus, which since the Turkish invasion of 1974 had become one enormous refugee camp, attached special importance to the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner, the essential purpose of which was to enable thousands of innocent victims to return to their homes. His delegation took the opportunity of expressing its gratitude, on behalf of the people and Government of Cyprus, to UNHCR and to the Governments, organizations and individuals who had generously contributed to UNHCR activities on behalf of refugees in Cyprus. His delegation also endorsed the content of the Secretary-General's report and the comments of the Advisory Committee on the matter and assured the Office of the High Commissioner of its full support and co-operation.

39. Mr. RALLIS (Greece) congratulated the Office of the High Commissioner on its efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the people of Cyprus. It was high time that a solution was found to a problem which, while undoubtedly political, was in essence humanitarian.

40. Mr. HOMAI-NEJAD (Iran) said that the refugee problem was essentially humanitarian in nature and that all States should be concerned by it: the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees was doing its best to assist the victims both of natural disasters and of political events beyond their control and the international community should do the same. Accordingly, UNHCR's activities should

(Mr. Homai-Nejad, Iran)

be financed both from the regular budget and from voluntary contributions. The Iranian delegation therefore endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendations and thought, like other delegations, that the management of UNHCR's resources should be carefully reviewed in the light of the needs of the refugees.

41. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stressed that he shared the feelings of other delegations as to the importance of the humanitarian aspect of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner. Nevertheless, in accordance with the Soviet Union's position of principle, he was unable to approve the recommendation in the Secretary-General's report or the recommendation of the Advisory Committee. The Soviet delegation therefore proposed that the draft resolution should be put to the vote.

42. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) observed that the Secretary-General, in paragraph 49 of his report, spoke of a transfer of 20 additional posts to the regular programme budget and, in paragraph 51, stated that the financial implications of the proposed redistribution were estimated at \$4.1 million a year, or \$210,000 a post, which seemed rather a high figure. His delegation was aware that overhead costs were included in that figure but would nevertheless like some explanation of the matter from the Secretariat.

43. Mr. KRISTIANSEN (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the 10 members of the European Economic Community was in favour of the draft resolution in document A/C.5/37/L.19. He agreed with the Secretary-General that the current method of apportioning costs between the regular budget and voluntary contributions must be rationalized in accordance with article 20 of the Statute of the Office of the High Commissioner. Regarding the financial implications, he endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation that any decision on the transfer of posts should be taken on a case-by-case basis in the context of the proposed programme budgets for 1984-1985 and subsequent biennia.

44. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) said that the Japanese Government, which was one of the largest voluntary contributors to UNHCR, fully supported UNHCR's humanitarian activities. The Advisory Committee recommended that any decision on the transfer of posts should be taken case by case and the Japanese delegation, which had always supported the principle of zero growth, would therefore vote in favour of the draft resolution in document A/C.5/37/L.19, whereby the General Assembly would endorse the Advisory Committee's opinion.

45. Mr. ENODIEN (Nigeria) explained that the Nigerian delegation, while endorsing the report of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee's recommendations, in particular those relating to the transfer of posts, hoped that administrative costs would be kept as low as possible so that more resources could be devoted to providing relief to the refugees. Nigeria would vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted by Lebanon.

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46. Mr. SHAHANKARI (Jordan) supported the Secretary-General's report, and the draft resolution in document A/C.5/37/L.19, which would help to improve the lot of the refugees and alleviate their sufferings.

47. Mr. MAROTO (Spain) said that he would vote in favour of the draft resolution in document A/C.5/37/L.19, and added that he fully agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendations, in particular those regarding the detailed review of administrative costs.

48. Mr. MANSOURI (Syrian Arab Republic), said that, aware of the sufferings endured by the thousands of displaced persons driven from their homes in ever-increasing numbers for reasons beyond their control, he would support the Advisory Committee's recommendations and the draft resolution submitted to the Committee. The latter should help to improve the apportionment of UNHCR's administrative expenditure and thus to promote its activities, which in turn would make possible a better response to the needs of refugees in general.

49. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) said that, generally speaking, Ghana was not in favour of transferring posts financed from extrabudgetary funds to the regular budget unless the transfers were such as to make the body concerned more effective. The Ghanaian delegation thought that, at a time of zero growth, any proposal of the kind currently before the Committee should be subjected to mature consideration. Accordingly, it welcomed the Advisory Committee's comments and was glad to note that they coincided with those of the Secretary-General. The Ghanaian delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution in document A/C.5/37/L.19.

50. Mr. YOUNIS (Iraq), though in favour of the draft resolution wished to remind the Committee of the need to look closely at any proposal to transfer posts financed from extrabudgetary funds to the Organization's regular budget, without thereby detracting in any way from concrete measures designed to improve the lot of displaced persons throughout the world. The Iraqi delegation also hoped that the Administration would complete the study it had started of the way in which the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner and its various services, were organized and requested the Office to press on with its efforts to convene an international conference on assistance to refugees in Africa.

51. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) supported the draft resolution and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. The Moroccan delegation hoped however that the Office of the High Commissioner would not depart from the humanitarian objectives laid down for it.

52. Mr. GEPP (Brazil) said that he was in principle opposed to the transfer of posts financed from extrabudgetary funds to the regular budget, but, in the case in point, given the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the proposed transfers should be taken on a case-by-case basis, his delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution.

53. Mr. ELHASSAN (Sudan) said that the proposed draft resolution, which was in accordance with article 20 of the Statute of the Office of the High Commissioner, was constructive. He had hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus, failing which he trusted that it would be adopted by the vast majority of the members of the Fifth Committee.

54. Mr. M'TESA (Zambia) said that he shared the concern of the representative of Lebanon with regard to the fate of refugees, and that he supported the draft resolution he had submitted. It was regrettable that there seemed to be no consensus on the draft.

55. Mr. RUSSO (Peru) also regretted that there was no consensus on the draft resolution.

56. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he supported all the humanitarian activities carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner, but that support did not in any way alter the position of the Soviet Union with regard to posts financed from extrabudgetary funds. Nevertheless, his delegation could withdraw its proposal that the draft resolution should be put to a vote.

57. Mr. WILLIAMS (Panama) congratulated the representative of the Soviet Union on his constructive attitude, and welcomed the fact that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

58. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said the fact that his delegation had withdrawn its proposal concerning a vote did not mean the draft resolution could be adopted by consensus.

59. The CHAIRMAN said it was his understanding that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/37/L.19 without a vote.

60. It was so decided.

First-class travel in the United Nations organizations (A/C.5/37/18 and Corr.1)

61. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), submitting an oral report by the Advisory Committee, said that the Secretary-General had conveyed to ACABQ information concerning the various exceptions made to authorize first-class travel. In paragraph 5 of his report, the Secretary-General had mentioned the question of the application of the provisions of paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 32/198 to persons serving in their individual capacity on organs or subsidiary organs established after the adoption of resolution 32/198 and to chairmen of intergovernmental committees also established after the adoption of that resolution. In the Advisory Committee's opinion, those persons were indeed covered by the provisions of paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 32/198. Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee endorse the interpretation of paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 32/198 as proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 5 of his report.

62. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted with concern that the number of exceptions made in order to authorize first-class travel was increasing year by year. His delegation considered that the Secretary-General should strive to restrict the number of decisions to authorize first-class travel in those cases not covered by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in order to avoid unnecessary and unjustified expenditure.

63. Mr. OUEIDAT (Lebanon) said that paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 32/198 should be interpreted as applying to members of all the organs and subsidiary organs established by the General Assembly which included members serving in an individual capacity, and to chairmen of intergovernmental committees travelling at United Nations expense. Nothing justified discriminatory treatment in the case of members or chairmen of certain organs.

64. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in the light of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/37/18 and Corr.1 and that it approve the interpretation of the provisions of paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 32/198 proposed in paragraph 5 of that report.

65. It was so decided.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); interim arrangements for the International Jute Council (A/37/7/Add.5; A/C.5/37/14)

66. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that ACABQ recommended approval of the Secretary-General's request for an advance to the International Jute Council and for the inclusion in section 15 of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 of an additional appropriation of \$150,000, which would be fully offset by an increase of the same amount under income section 2 (General income). In addition, the Advisory Committee recommended that, should the proposed appropriation not be required in 1983 or should it be used only partially, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 36/116 B should not apply to that balance.

67. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should approve the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an additional appropriation of \$150,000 under section 15 of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983, which would be offset by an increase of the same amount under income section 2. He further suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it adopt the recommendation of the Advisory Committee appearing in paragraph 5 of its report (A/37/7/Add.5).

68. It was so decided.

Revised estimates under section 28L, subsection 1, International Civil Service Commission, and income section 2, General income (A/37/7/Add.6; A/C.5/37/12 and Corr.1)

69. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General was requesting an additional appropriation of \$158,800 under section 28L, subsection 1, for the International Civil Service Commission for 1982-1983 to cover the cost of computerization of the work of the Cost-of-Living Division, reclassification of three posts within the present establishment of ICSC and travel costs of members of ACPAQ.

70. With regard to the reclassification of posts, the Advisory Committee had noted that, in resolution 35/217, the General Assembly had endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the reclassification of regular-budget posts. The Advisory Committee had in particular recommended that such requests be submitted within the framework of the proposed programme budget for the biennium in question. Notwithstanding its own recommendations, the Advisory Committee was in the case under consideration recommending that the Fifth Committee approve the proposed three reclassifications of posts, because the reclassifications were being requested following a review of all Professional posts in the ICSC secretariat and no further reclassification of posts would be requested under the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985.

71. Consequently, the Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposals and approval of an additional appropriation of \$158,800 under section 28L, subsection 1, for ICSC for 1982-1983.

72. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that ICSC should be able to finance the computerization of the work of the Cost-of-Living Division from available resources. In addition, the proposed reclassification of posts did not seem at all justified. His delegation thus requested that the proposal for an additional appropriation of \$158,800 under section 28L, subsection 1, in respect of ICSC should be put to a vote. His delegation would vote against the proposal.

73. Mr. ZAKHAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the proposed reclassification of posts was not justified. His delegation would thus vote against the proposal.

74. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand) said that ICSC must be provided with the means and resources it needed. His delegation would thus vote in favour of the additional appropriation requested.

75. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) endorsed the proposals of the Secretary-General on the computerization of the work of the Cost-of-Living Division and the reclassification of three established posts. The computerization of the work of that Division should lead to substantial savings. Moreover, ICSC, which had prepared the Master Standard and the Tier II grade level standard for personnel management specialists, was particularly well qualified to determine the level at which a post should be classified. Finally, it should be noted that the additional expenses would not be borne entirely by the Organization since the specialized agencies would reimburse their share.

76. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) said that he supported the proposed reclassification of posts which would ensue from applying the Master Standard prepared for personnel management specialists to the ICSC secretariat.

77. Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden), supported by Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada), said that he supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and would thus vote in favour of the additional appropriation requested.

78. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an additional appropriation of \$158,800 under section 28L, subsection 1, in respect of ICSC, and its related recommendations.

79. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an additional appropriation of \$158,800 under section 28L, subsection 1, and its related recommendations were approved by 69 votes to 9, with 3 abstentions.

80. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of vote, said that he had voted in favour of the additional appropriation requested, since it appeared justified. Nevertheless, he wished to reaffirm that additional expenditure should normally be met from available resources.

81. Mr. HOLBORN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the requirements in respect of ICSC were justified, but that it should have been possible to meet them from the resources available in the ICSC budget. He had thus abstained in the vote.

82. Ms. CONWAY (Ireland) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the additional appropriation requested, since it approved of the Secretary-General's proposals.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.