

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records *



FIFTH COMMITTEE

69th meeting

held on

Tuesday, 14 December 1982

at 10.30 a.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 69th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland)

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

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Child-care services at Headquarters

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Distr. GENERAL

A/C.5/37/SR.69

21 December 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

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

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/C.2/37/L.19 concerning agenda item 12 (A/C.5/37/92)

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General had submitted two reports in 1982 on the financing of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) of the Economic Commission for Africa on an established basis, the first to the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council and the second, which was largely a copy of the first, to the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly. The two documents (E/1982/70 and A/37/520) provided detailed information on the history, structure and programme of work of the MULPOCs and explained their precarious financial situation. They showed that, to date, UNDP had been the main source of funds for financing the substantive support and infrastructure of the Centres. However, as stated in the reports of the Secretary-General, UNDP funding would henceforth be confined to technical co-operation activities and the Secretary-General therefore proposed that, since the MULPOCs were an integral part of the Economic Commission for Africa, it was fair to assume that the funding of their infrastructure and substantive support should be taken over by the regular budget.

2. Draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.19 recommended that the General Assembly should endorse the Secretary-General's proposals in document A/37/520, paragraphs 47 to 49, which indicated the staffing and other related resources required and what the costs would be to the regular budget. The Secretary-General was proposing an additional appropriation of \$813,700 in 1983, the bulk of which would be used to finance a total of 19 established posts as detailed in document A/C.5/37/92, paragraph 4. Together with the 16 existing posts, that would make a total of 35 posts available for supporting the MULPOCs, distributed as shown in document A/C.5/37/92, paragraph 5.

3. As the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa had all recognized that the MULPOCs were an integral feature of ECA and constituted subregional centres which enabled the Commission to carry out its mandate within its terms of reference, the Advisory Committee had concluded that it would be appropriate to accede to the requests made in document A/C.5/37/92. However, it was recommending that the new posts should be established on a temporary basis and that the question of their permanent establishment and financing should be considered in the context of proposals on the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. Some might disagree with that recommendation for psychological reasons, but there was little in his experience to suggest that such temporary posts would later be terminated.

4. He wished to point out further that the posts had to be allocated to MULPOCs and not to ECA headquarters. The Advisory Committee proposed that section 13 of the next programme budget document should indicate separately the five centres at

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(Mr. Mselle)

Tangier, Lusaka, Gisenyi, Niamey and Yaounde, together with their allocation of resources and the programme of work to be carried out by each. That procedure would be no different from the current practice with respect to ECLA regional centres.

5. In conclusion, he said that the additional appropriation under section 13 would be \$813,700 and, under section 31, \$102,200, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1.

6. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) said that the question of financing the MULPOCs under the regular budget had been pending since their establishment in 1977, and the least the Committee could do would be to adopt the Secretary-General's proposals as quickly as possible. With regard to the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the new posts should be established on a temporary basis, he believed that they should be made permanent in order to avoid having to revert to the problem during future budget discussions. There was a precedent in the action taken by the Committee on the financing of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees only the day before. His delegation had definite reservations about creating the new posts on a temporary basis and proposed that they should be made permanent, as the only stable foundation for the operations of the MULPOCs.

7. Mr. NKOUNKOU (Congo) said that the MULPOCs were very important for Africa, since they were designed to foster integration and to pave the way for the African economic community envisaged in the Lagos Plan of Action. The importance of the centres had been recognized by the Joint Inspection Unit, and he was convinced that they did not represent a duplication of effort as certain delegations had claimed in other Committees. Account should also be taken of Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/62, which invited the General Assembly to examine the problem at its current session. He therefore urged all delegations which were conscious of Africa's development needs to support the financing of the five Centres on a permanent basis.

8. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had made great efforts to achieve a consensus in the Second Committee on the question of financing the MULPOCs, but as a matter of principle it was unable to accept that the financing of United Nations activities of any kind should be changed from a voluntary to an established basis. In view of the special interest of the African States in the financing of the Centres, his delegation had repeatedly sought acceptable solutions to the problem. However, despite repeated requests, the Secretariat had not prepared additional information on the programme implications of draft resolution A/C.2/37/L.19, as it was required to do under General Assembly resolution 36/228 A. As a result, the constructive search for a compromise had been thwarted and his delegation had been forced to vote against the draft resolution. Accordingly, it would be unable to support regular budget appropriations for the purposes under consideration.

9. Mr. OKEYO (Kenya) said that the activities of the MULPOCs were of great importance to ECA. His delegation had believed that they could be financed through UNDP, but the latter's financial problems had resulted in the African proposal for

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(Mr. Okeyo, Kenya)

expenditures on the Centres to be absorbed by the regular budget. While his delegation understood the reasons for the Advisory Committee's recommendations, it supported the position of the representative of the United Republic of Cameroon and wanted a definite commitment that the financing of the MULPOCs would be placed on a permanent rather than a temporary basis.

10. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said his delegation considered the MULPOCs to be an integral part of ECA and therefore believed that their resources should be considered in the context of the next regular biennial budget. Accordingly, it supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the new arrangements should be on a temporary basis. To establish them on a permanent basis would be tantamount to creating an extra layer in the United Nations system, and his delegation therefore believed the Advisory Committee's recommendation to be a wise one.

11. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had substantial doubts about the proposals for the financing of MULPOCs and about the effectiveness of their activities, which should not be transferred to the regular budget but should continue to be financed from extrabudgetary resources. With regard to the effectiveness of MULPOC programmes, he would welcome information from the Secretariat on the extent to which the Centres had been able to meet their stated objectives since the last performance report. As for the programme implications - which, as had been remarked, were not available - he would also like to have details of similar and related activities elsewhere in the United Nations system. He regretted that the Advisory Committee had not taken issue with the Secretary-General's proposals and was sure that its Chairman was correct in his belief that temporary posts, once granted, would not later be terminated. His delegation could not support the proposals and therefore requested that they should be put to the vote.

12. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) emphasized that the draft resolution dealt with the financing of the MULPOCs on an established basis. With respect to the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the question of the permanence of the new posts should be deferred until the next budget discussions, he wished to make three points. First, the Fifth Committee had already approved proposals from the Secretary-General for the financing of UNHCR which were similar to those relating to the MULPOCs. Secondly, the latter were not a special case, since other such centres already existed and enjoyed established financing. Thirdly, the Committee had taken a decision only the day before in a case where the Advisory Committee had recommended awaiting the next budget discussions before considering the possibility of creating certain additional posts. He therefore suggested that the Committee should adopt the proposals in document A/C.5/37/92 on the understanding that the posts created would be permanent, and he requested that a recorded vote should be taken on the matter.

13. The CHAIRMAN said the proposal made by the representative of the United Republic of Cameroon would be put to the vote. He suggested that, based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/37/L.19, additional appropriations totalling \$813,700 would be

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(The Chairman)

required under section 13 (Economic Commission for Africa) of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. A further appropriation of \$102,200 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), which would be offset by an increase of the same amount in the estimates of income under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment). In accordance with the proposal made by the representative of the United Republic of Cameroon, the posts covered by the additional appropriations would be established on a permanent basis.

14. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that his delegation had traditionally supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. However, it had noted the remark by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that temporary posts were rarely terminated and was satisfied that the proposed amendment was not at variance with the Advisory Committee's intention. His delegation would therefore vote for the amended proposals, despite its respect for the Advisory Committee.

15. At the request of the representative of the United Republic of Cameroon, a recorded vote was taken on the proposals in document A/C.5/37/92, as orally amended.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Barbados, Bhutan, Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Finland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay.

16. The proposals in document A/C.5/37/92, as orally amended, were adopted by 68 votes to 20, with 9 abstentions.

17. Mr. KELLER (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said the reasons why his delegation was opposed to transferring the costs of MULPOC activities to the regular budget had been explained in the Second Committee. It

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(Mr. Keller, United States)

was unfortunate that the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the new posts should be established on a temporary basis had not proved acceptable. The fact that the Fifth Committee had made a mistaken decision on the previous day was no reason for repeating it.

18. Mr. BANGURA (Sierra Leone) said his delegation had supported the proposal made by the representative of the United Republic of Cameroon because the MULPOCs were of great importance for African development and their future was threatened by the lack of adequate voluntary financing through UNDP.

19. Mr. GEPP (Brazil) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote because it supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the proposals in question.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/C.2/37/L.82/Rev.1, as orally revised, concerning agenda item 74 (a) (A/C.5/37/93)

20. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the draft resolution recommended raising the normal maximum of disaster assistance which the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator could give to any country in the case of any one disaster from \$30,000 to \$50,000. Such relief would be financed from voluntary funds, and not from the regular budget.

21. Requests had also been made for the establishment of a new P-5 post for a senior relief co-ordination officer, and for a P-3 and a General Service post in the Data Communications Unit of UNDRO to strengthen its information capabilities. Since the Relief Co-ordination and Preparedness Branch of UNDRO already had 10 professional posts - one P-2, two P-3, four P-4, two P-5 and one D-1 - the Advisory Committee had concluded that there was no need for the additional P-5 post requested. Assistance for data communications was, however, justified and the Advisory Committee recommended the establishment of the post requested on a temporary basis, pending consideration of permanent establishment in the 1984-1985 budget.

22. The Advisory Committee was recommending an appropriation of \$53,900, in addition to which there would be an amount of \$12,000 relating to staff assessment under section 31, offset by a similar amount under income section 1.

23. Mr. KELLER (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the substance of the draft resolution and the comments made by the Advisory Committee. There was a need for an agency to assist countries in time of disaster, although the question of how it should be structured was moot. The United States would regretfully vote against the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution on financial grounds. The General Assembly, in its resolution 36/225, had requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report at its thirty-eighth session, and in view of that it was inappropriate to consider any changes at the current session. His delegation requested a vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

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24. Mr. KBAIER (Tunisia) said that UNDRO had insufficient resources to cope with disasters, which imposed a heavy burden on the economies of developing countries. His delegation therefore supported the proposals for providing the Office with additional resources.

25. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/37/L.82/Rev.1, as orally revised an additional appropriation of \$53,900 would be required under section 22 of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. A further appropriation of \$12,000 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), which would be offset by an increase of the same amount in the estimate of income under income section 1. (Income for staff assessment).

26. The Advisory Committee's recommendations were adopted by 79 votes to 17.

27. Mr. CAPPAGLI (Argentina), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations, since it supported the work of UNDRO.

28. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that the question of UNDRO's structure and of disaster relief co-ordination within the United Nations system remained to be settled. The matter should be considered in the context of the next programme budget.

29. Mr. MOJTAHED (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, if his delegation had been present during the voting, it would have voted in favour of the recommendations.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Third Committee in document A/C.3/37/L.43, as orally revised, concerning agenda item 90 (c) (A/C.5/37/94).

30. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the draft resolution requested the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to convene during 1984 an International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa. The Secretary-General had estimated conference-servicing requirements at \$276,800. The amount would be considered in the context of proposals for the biennium 1984-1985.

31. The Secretary-General was also requested to submit a report, which would involve additional expenditure of \$98,700 in 1983, although efforts would be made to absorb those costs. Approval of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution would thus not give rise to any additional appropriations for the time being.

32. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/37/L.43, as orally revised, conference-servicing requirements would arise which were estimated, on a full-cost

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(The Chairman)

basis, at \$246,600. The actual additional appropriations that might be required in that respect would be considered in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985.

33. It was so decided.

Child care services at Headquarters (A/37/7/Add.21; A/C.5/37/69)

34. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said it was the third time that the matter had come before the Fifth Committee. The Advisory Committee had made a number of recommendations and proposals in its report, which it trusted would be adopted.

35. The Secretary-General was seeking approval for the establishment of a crèche accommodating a minimum of 50 infants, and had requested that the expected operating deficit should be underwritten by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee, in paragraph 4 of its report, had reached a different conclusion. While it agreed that a crèche should indeed be established, it did not think it appropriate for the General Assembly to give formal approval in principle. The relationship between any crèche and the United Nations should not go beyond the one existing between the Organization and the United Nations International School or the crèche in Geneva. Secondly, it was inappropriate for the General Assembly to agree in advance that it would underwrite the crèche's operating deficit. The Fifth Committee had never recommended such a procedure.

36. In paragraphs 6 and 7 of its report, the Advisory Committee recommended what form United Nations assistance to the crèche should take. In keeping with current practice, the Committee was recommending that a grant, not exceeding \$100,000, should be given to establish the crèche. A similar arrangement had been in operation for some years with regard to the Geneva crèche, which had received grants of \$50,800 under the regular budget for the biennium 1978-1979, \$75,000 for the biennium 1980-1981 and \$79,500 for the biennium 1982-1983.

37. In view of the fact that there were still many details to be worked out, the Secretary-General should be authorized to commit funds subject to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, up to \$100,000. With regard to any request from the Secretary-General for an advance from the Working Capital Fund, the Advisory Committee felt that the General Assembly might wish to authorize such an advance up to an amount of \$75,000 to cover the crèche's initial start-up costs.

38. The Secretary-General had also requested a temporary P-3 post and six months' clerical assistance to co-ordinate assistance for parents with pre-school and school-age children. The Advisory Committee felt that it would be more appropriate to strengthen the Staff Counsellor's Office in the Office of Personnel Services, and was recommending that an amount of \$15,000 in temporary assistance should be approved for that purpose under section 28C.

39. If the Fifth Committee accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendations, there would be no need for any appropriation of funds at the current session. The Fifth Committee would merely take note of the Secretary-General's report and concur

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(Mr. Mselle)

in the Advisory Committee's recommendations. The Secretary-General would then approach the Advisory Committee for the authority to commit funds as proposed in the ACABQ report. Alternatively, interested delegations might draft a proposal incorporating the Advisory Committee's recommendations, although that was not really necessary.

40. The CHAIRMAN expressed displeasure, on behalf of the Fifth Committee, at the delay in issuing the report of the Secretary-General on child-care services at Headquarters (A/C.5/37/69). There was very little time left for the Committee to take a decision on the matter.

41. Ms. MUSTONEN (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, recalled that the Secretary-General had already reported twice on the question of child-care services at Headquarters, at the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions. On both occasions, the General Assembly had requested that the question should be given further consideration and that alternative solutions should be sought. In the light of the latest report submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/37/69) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/37/7/Add.21), the Nordic countries hoped that the Fifth Committee would not postpone action on the question any longer. The provision of child-care services was one concrete way of creating equal opportunities for women and men in the United Nations community in New York and enabling parents to participate actively in the work of the Organization. During the debate on personnel questions at the current session, many delegations had expressed the desire to see more women employed in the Secretariat, and action to improve child-care facilities would clearly help to achieve that goal. The Joint Inspection Unit, in its second report on the status of women in the Professional category and above (A/37/469), had also expressed the hope that child-care arrangements would be introduced in the near future.

42. Quite apart from the need to create equal opportunities for women in the Organization, the provision of child care was a function to which the United Nations should pay attention, as a good employer. That point had also been made by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, and by the Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services in their statements to the Fifth Committee.

43. While the Nordic delegations were aware that the proposed services would not meet all the needs of United Nations parents, they welcomed the fact that the Advisory Committee had put forward recommendations for positive action. They supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that, once the proposed crèche was established, the United Nations should provide assistance in the form of a grant of not more than \$100,000. With regard to the proposal to appoint a co-ordinator to assist staff members in finding child-care facilities, they shared the opinion of the Advisory Committee that it would be better to simply strengthen the Staff Counsellor's Office.

44. Ms. KAUFMANN (United States of America) said that the dedication of the United States delegation to improving the lot of women in the United Nations was well known. While the provision of day care for children was a feature of enlightened management practices, it was not always a feasible option. United Nations

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(Ms. Kaufmann, United States)

Headquarters, situated at the heart of a large metropolis, was in no need of child-care facilities.

45. The whole issue of child-care services was loaded with contradictions. Highly conflicting proposals had been put forward over the past three years, none of which would do anything to solve the problem. They were in fact simply a medium for propaganda. It was hard to believe that they were meant to be taken seriously. For instance, in his report of the thirty-sixth session (A/C.5/36/73), the Secretary-General had observed that legal requirements with regard to the ratio of staff and physical space for children under one year of age would create a very heavy financial burden and that, besides, many parents would prefer not to bring very young children to work by public transport. At the current session, however, proposals were being put forward for precisely that age group. Could parents have changed their views so radically? Again, in his previous report, the Secretary-General had said that the proposed day-care centre for children over one year of age should be situated near the Headquarters building, while in his latest report he stated that, given the distance that many parents with children in that age group travelled to work, it would not be possible to plan a centralized service for them. Once more, she wondered how the situation could have changed so drastically.

46. Her delegation also believed that the General Assembly should not commit itself to underwriting a permanent operating deficit for any body or institution. In addition, it questioned the justification for providing a service which would be of benefit to only a very limited number of staff members. Finally, her delegation agreed that a high-level staff member was not needed to give advice on child-care facilities.

47. Her delegation seriously doubted whether enough research had been conducted into the whole question to warrant the proposed expenditures. It might suffice simply to set up a file on child-care facilities and providers of child-care, and the proposed crèche might well prove to be totally unnecessary in the light of existing facilities. Her delegation therefore proposed that the Fifth Committee should simply take note of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee and request further details on the proposed schemes. In view of the current financial crisis of the United Nations, the latest proposals left far too many questions unanswered for the Fifth Committee to commit itself at the present stage.

48. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) welcomed the report of the Secretary-General and recalled that it had been at the initiative of her delegation, among others, that a report on the establishment of a child-care centre at Headquarters had been requested by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. The question of child-care services had major social implications and her delegation hoped that in the light of paragraph 24 of the Secretary-General's latest report and paragraphs 5 to 7 and note 1 of the Advisory Committee's report, the Fifth Committee would at least approve in principle the establishment of a crèche as described in paragraphs 18 and 19 of the Secretary-General's report. Any effort to solve the problem of child-care services would help to relieve a situation which was posing increasing difficulties for staff members who were forced

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(Mrs. Castro de Barish, Costa Rica)

to leave their young children in the care of others so that they could fulfil their professional obligations. The latest proposal would not meet all the needs of all parents, but it would at least be a good beginning which might be expanded as practical experience was gained.

49. Her delegation was grateful to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for his report and suggested that the Fifth Committee should, in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Secretary-General's report, approve in principle the establishment of the proposed crèche.

50. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) observed that the various reports submitted by the Secretary-General on the subject of child care had raised more questions than they had answered. The Fifth Committee still had no report on the operating budget of the proposed services nor any estimate of the contributions that would be needed. Moreover, it was clear that the operating costs of the crèche at Geneva were rising steadily. To agree to provide a grant of \$100,000 for the time being would be tantamount to agreeing to permanently subsidize an independent entity. He also wondered how such an entity would repay the proposed advance from the Working Capital Fund if it was going to have a permanent deficit, unless the grants awarded by the General Assembly were used for that purpose. He therefore agreed that the Fifth Committee should simply take note of the Secretary-General's report and defer a decision on the subject until more information was provided.

51. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation endorsed the recommendation in paragraph 5 of the the Advisory Committee's report and the decision in principle that the Secretary-General should continue to explore the possibility of establishing a crèche, provided that the United Nations did not play any official role in the establishment of such a crèche and was not responsible for covering its operating deficit. In view of the Organization's continuing financial difficulties, his delegation could not support the recommendation that the United Nations should subsidize the proposed crèche. It also drew attention to the fact that the establishment of the crèche as envisaged in the Secretary-General's report would lead to unequal treatment among staff members with young children.

52. Mrs. ESPINOSA de LOPEZ (Colombia) said that her delegation fully supported the statement made by the representative of Finland and the recommendations contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee.

53. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that, while his delegation sympathized with the child-care problems faced by United Nations staff members, it had serious doubts regarding the latest proposals. The proposed crèche was expected to have a permanent operating deficit and would thus be one more burden on the United Nations budget. His delegation therefore endorsed the proposal that the Fifth Committee should simply take note of the Secretary-General's report pending further study of the issue.

54. Mr. ZINIEL (Ghana) said that his delegation sympathized with the idea of establishing a day-care centre and found the Secretary-General's latest report very positive. The need for a day care centre could not be challenged but, in view of

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(Mr. Ziniel, Ghana)

the last sentence of paragraph 4 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/37/7/Add.21), there seemed to be no need to involve the United Nations in its establishment. He therefore endorsed the United States proposal. Furthermore, he could not support the recommendations in paragraphs 7 and 12 of the Advisory Committee's report, because the proposed crèche would provide care for a very limited number of children and would therefore be discriminatory.

55. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago) said that, in view of the Advisory Committee's recommendations and the information given in paragraph 4 of its report, and above all in view of the information that the crèche at Geneva was already receiving a grant from the United Nations, the Fifth Committee would be simply paying lip-service to the whole idea if it expressed an interest in creating such facilities in New York but did not allow time for thorough consideration of concrete proposals to that effect. Her delegation found it especially difficult to understand why the Fifth Committee could approve support for a crèche at Geneva but not in New York. If it was to be consistent, the Committee must request that any future report on the provision of child-care in New York should include a statement on the future situation with regard to contributions to the Geneva crèche. While her delegation understood the objections to the provision of such a grant to a crèche in New York for the time being, it believed that the Committee could not take a final decision until it had an indication of the General Assembly's position on future grants to the Geneva crèche and until a comprehensive report was available which took into account every aspect of the question.

56. Miss DOSS (Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services) said that the latest proposals provided a modest, practical and low-cost solution to a long-standing problem; if the Fifth Committee did not endorse them, it would simply be paying lip-service to the idea of creating equal opportunities for women in the United Nations. There could be no question but that child-care was needed for the United Nations community in New York, and she was gratified that the Advisory Committee shared the view that the latest proposals would go somewhat towards filling that need. Besides, paragraph 7 of the Advisory Committee's report stated quite clearly that the Secretary-General would be unable to commit funds for the proposed grant without the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee.

57. The CHAIRMAN noted that there were two proposals before the Committee. Firstly, the United States supported by Canada, the United Kingdom and Ghana, had proposed that the Fifth Committee should take note of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee and request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, an updated report on the feasibility and the financial implications of the proposals in those reports. Secondly, it had been proposed that the Fifth Committee should adopt the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee. In accordance with the rules of procedure, the Committee should first take a decision on the United States proposal.

58. Miss CASTILLO (Dominican Republic), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that her delegation was in favour of establishing the proposed crèche because, in keeping with the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women, the burden on working women must be reduced by providing them with child-care near

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(Miss Castillo, Dominican Republic)

their place of work. In her country, crèches were being established by employers in recognition of the rights of women and children. The United Nations should establish a child care centre open to the children of all members of the international community in New York, in view of the very serious problems which child-care created, especially for women. Her delegation therefore whole-heartedly supported the proposal that the Fifth Committee should endorse the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

59. Mrs. de HEDERVARY (Belgium) said that her delegation would vote against the United States proposal and in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendations. While it regretted that it had not had time to study the Advisory Committee's report in depth, it believed that the proposals contained in it represented a very good beginning and would help men and women to work together in harmony in the United Nations. At the current session, the Fifth Committee had seen how low staff morale had sunk, and it was not too much to ask that the Committee should endorse the Advisory Committee's recommendations, especially when the amount requested was so small in comparison with the huge sums that had been approved for other activities.

60. Ms. MUSTONEN (Finland) said that her delegation would vote against the United States proposal.

61. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) said that, in view of her delegation's interest in the question and the fact that, as the representative of Trinidad and Tobago had pointed out, the Fifth Committee seemed to be quite happy to subsidize a crèche at Geneva but not in New York, her delegation in principle approved of the establishment of the proposed crèche and would therefore vote against the United States proposal.

62. Miss CONWAY (Ireland) said that her delegation would vote against the United States proposal and for the Advisory Committee's recommendations, which were well-founded and should be implemented as soon as possible.

63. Mr. YOUNIS (Iraq) observed that the Fifth Committee was not dealing with a new issue, and said it was high time that it took a decision on the subject. Did the Committee want a crèche, or was it simply going to postpone a decision on the question year after year? In his view, the Committee must take immediate action, and he would therefore vote against the United States proposal.

64. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) said that the problem was serious and must be dealt with accordingly. The Fifth Committee had repeatedly postponed a decision on it, but now that the Advisory Committee had put forward clear-cut recommendations it must take action. After all, if the Committee made that gesture, the United Nations would hardly collapse from lack of funds. Had the United States proposal not been supported by other delegations, he would have urged the United States representative to withdraw it. His delegation would vote against that proposal and for the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

65. The United States proposal was rejected by 73 votes to 18, with 11 abstentions.

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66. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in accordance with the second proposal, the Fifth Committee should take note of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee and approve the recommendations contained in paragraphs 4 to 8 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/37/7/Add.21).

67. Ms. KAUFMANN (United States of America) requested a vote on the proposal.

68. The proposal was adopted by 83 votes to 5, with 16 abstentions.

69. The CHAIRMAN proposed, with regard to the appointment of a co-ordinator of child-care services to serve in the Staff Counsellor's Office, that, based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should approve an additional appropriation of \$15,000 under section 28C (Office of Personnel Services) and a further appropriation of \$3,100 under section 31 (Staff assessment), which would be offset by an increase of the same amount in the estimates of income under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

70. The proposal was adopted by 79 votes to 13, with 9 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.