



FIFTH COMMITTEE  
16th meeting  
held on  
Tuesday, 25 October, 1983  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KUYAMA (Japan)

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

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

AGENDA ITEMS 109 AND 110: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985 AND PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/38/3, A/38/6, A/38/7, A/38/38, A/38/133 and Corr.1; A/C.5/38/6 and Corr.1, A/C.5/38/7; A/C.5/38/SR.7)

General debate (continued)

1. Mr. THEPITTAK (Thailand) paid a tribute to the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board to adopt an integrated financial and programmatic approach to the programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, on the basis of the objectives and strategies of the medium-term plan. At a time of budgetary constraint, and in the light of the fact that some countries were still in favour of freezing the Organization's budget, it was more than ever necessary to show maximum restraint in allocating resources and setting priorities. On the latter point, which could be controversial in the sense that the setting of priorities depended on value judgements, the Thai delegation suggested that the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board should devote itself to evolving objective criteria.

2. In response to a question raised by one delegation concerning the cost-effectiveness of the plan to expand the conference facilities at the Bangkok headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), he recalled that for more than 20 years, up to October 1975, the ESCAP secretariat had been housed rent-free in a building complex (the Sala Santitham) owned by the Thai Government. After a fire in the assembly hall in August 1969, the General Assembly had authorized the Secretary-General, in resolution 2616 (XXIV) of 17 December 1969, to conduct an architectural and engineering study for the construction of new premises. The buildings in question, the construction of which had been started immediately and completed in October 1975, had not been designed to accommodate the plenary meetings of the Commission or other large-scale gatherings, since it had been expected that after restoration and repairs the Sala Santitham facilities would again be available to the United Nations. The expected restoration had not taken place and it had become apparent, when the new premises had been put into service, that they were too small to accommodate the plenary sessions of the Commission and the large-scale meetings and conferences that it organized each year. At the beginning of 1976, it had been necessary to take temporary measures to expand one conference room through the conversion of space previously assigned to other uses.

3. At the end of August 1982, the secretariat had informed the Thai Government that the ESCAP conference facilities no longer allowed it to accommodate its expanding activities and the increase in its membership. Between 1976 and 1982, the Commission's conference programme had grown by 150 per cent and an ever-larger number of meetings had had to be held outside Bangkok. According to the ESCAP secretariat, the construction of new conference facilities would have made it possible to hold 80 per cent of those meetings at headquarters, with concomitant savings under various headings to the Organization, the host countries and other

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(Mr. Thepittak, Thailand)

Member States. It should be made clear in that connection that the plan to expand the conference facilities submitted to the Commission the previous April had been strongly supported by most of its members.

4. On 28 September 1982, the Thai Government, which had always attached great importance to the work of ESCAP, had in principle agreed to lease to it for a nominal sum the ground adjacent to the headquarters, on which the Sala Santitham was situated. It had also offered ESCAP its co-operation in the architectural design of the proposed conference facilities and the supervision of the construction.

5. One of the most important issues involved in priority setting related to that project, which some delegations claimed was untimely in view of the Organization's financial position. Although it appreciated that concern, the Thai delegation was of the opinion that the cost of the building project might well increase if it was postponed; it hoped therefore that the members of the Fifth Committee would take into account the real needs and cost-effectiveness of the work of ESCAP and of the United Nations when they took a decision in that connection.

6. Mr. MOHI-ELDIN (Sudan) said that the budget should be drawn up in the light of the United Nations fundamental objectives - the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of economic and social advancement throughout the world - and, at the same time, taking into account the political, social and economic circumstances of its Member States. That was the framework within which programmes should be drawn up, activities decided on and priorities determined, taking into account the need to make the best possible use of resources and to keep costs at the lowest possible level.

7. Because of the economic crisis that affected the whole world, there had been an increasing tendency in recent years to limit and ultimately to set at zero the growth of the United Nations budget, thus imposing a ceiling on appropriations for the various programmes, regardless of actual requirements. Those programmes, however, had been conceived in the light of United Nations objectives and the budgetary restraints in fact impaired the role and the effectiveness of the Organization through the world.

8. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985 envisaged a real growth of 0.7 per cent, but the increase was in fact considerably less because of the inclusion in the regular budget of activities previously financed from extrabudgetary funds. Moreover, because of the increase in personnel costs, the money available for actual programmes and activities was undergoing a decline in real terms or even a serious deterioration.

9. The developing countries found themselves in a difficult economic situation. Those countries, which were exporters of commodities, sometimes only one commodity, were the victims of the steady decline in commodity prices accompanied by a steady increase in the price of imported industrial goods. Their external debt was rising constantly and debt-servicing costs absorbed most of their export earnings, so that

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(Mr. Mohi-Eldin, Sudan)

they were no longer able to import the essential products and capital goods needed for their economic and social development effort. In those difficult conditions, the developing countries had taken steps towards economic recovery and reduction of their budget deficits which had high social, political and economic costs.

10. In his view, that should lead the United Nations to expand its programmes and activities in all fields - economic, social, humanitarian and political - instead of adopting a policy of retrenchment and austerity which hampered its essential programmes and reduced the effectiveness of its assistance to Member States, particularly developing States, during that difficult period. The need to strengthen the effectiveness and the capacity of the world Organization derived both from the requirements of the States Members and from the Organization's obligations to those States. That strengthening should be undertaken in accordance with the programmes and priorities already set, in an effort to make the best possible use of resources and to secure the implementation of programmes at the lowest possible cost.

11. He wished to emphasize four essential considerations: first, the budget should be worked out on the basis of the essential objectives of the United Nations and on the real needs of programmes and not depend on a given growth rate. Secondly, programmes and activities should be co-ordinated and the priorities of each determined clearly and exactly. Thirdly, it was necessary to measure resources precisely, to implement programmes according to the agreed methods and at the lowest cost and to co-ordinate the budget preparation, execution, follow-up and evaluation activities in order to ensure respect for the set objectives. Lastly, a judicious balance must be maintained between staff costs, which currently accounted for some 80 per cent of the total budget, and expenditure on actual programme implementation.

12. Mr. EL-SAFETY (Egypt) said that his delegation was willing to accept the Secretary-General's appeal for a moratorium to enable him to make the administrative reforms he had planned for 1984, provided that the moratorium was for one year with no extension, that it was related only to the organizational changes and that a detailed report on the nature of and reasons for the proposed changes was submitted to the General Assembly.

13. During the discussions of the budget for 1982-1983, the Egyptian delegation had strongly opposed the idea of a "zero growth rate", which it considered had no meaning and in which it saw a challenge to the legislative authority of Member States. It was therefore pleased that the Secretary-General had decided not to impose a predetermined growth rate for the budget for the 1984-1985 biennium. However, it noted with concern that the real growth rate of 0.7 per cent was not caused by the growth of substantive activities, but that the main reason was that the regular budget financed posts that had previously been financed from extrabudgetary resources. In fact, resources allocated to substantive activities had decreased by 12 per cent in real terms compared with the preceding budget, which confirmed the trend that had started in 1982-1983. The resources designated for personnel services, as estimated by the Secretary-General, amounted to

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(Mr. El-Safty, Egypt)

78 per cent of the total estimated expenditure, the real figure no doubt being even higher. The situation had already been serious in 1981 and it had continued to deteriorate. His delegation therefore hoped that the Secretary-General would report on the matter to the thirty-ninth session.

14. The relative burden on developing countries was increasing because the volume of extrabudgetary resources, or that of the voluntary contributions made by Member States able to do so, was regularly decreasing in relation to the volume of the regular budget financed by all Member States. His delegation therefore called on those Member States with the means to do so to increase their voluntary contributions and to pledge them on an annual basis, so that the Secretary-General could make reliable estimates of the extrabudgetary resources available to the Organization for each biennium.

15. He had only minor reservations to make concerning the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. His delegation attributed the incoherence and contradictions noted in the setting of priorities in the proposed budget to the fact that the method followed was being tried out; it was sure that there would be improvements in the future.

16. With regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/324 concerning the presentation of the programme implications of draft resolutions, his delegation believed that great caution was needed and noted with regret that the Secretary-General had not yet submitted a report which could be accepted by Member States. Where the latter had agreed on the method of implementation, the decision of the Economic and Social Council could be taken as a guideline provided that it did not serve the interests of certain Member States to the detriment of others.

17. With regard to the programme budget, it might be advisable to transfer the budget of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination from part IV, where it currently appeared, to part I which already covered the budgets of a number of other committees.

18. His delegation was extremely concerned at the cut in the resources of the budget of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (sect. 7), the activities of which were extremely important to developing countries. It was regrettable that the Secretary-General had not proposed a contingency plan to deal with the crisis; it was to be hoped that he would do so or that he would submit the results of the study which he was to make before the end of the current session.

19. Although the subject of experts and consultants was taboo in the United Nations system, his delegation was determined to attack it bluntly. Some departments used their services so extensively that it might be wondered what their own staff did. Moreover, there were no standard fees for the remuneration of experts and consultants, which could vary from \$2,500 to \$7,000 a month depending on the sections of the budget. In some sections, needs were evaluated in man-hours or man-months, in others they were expressed in dollars and a third category was an amalgamation of the two, without any explanation being given. Lastly, it was well

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(Mr. El-Safty, Egypt)

known that very often the recruitment of experts was not done on the basis of an advertisement, except a merely formal one, but was used to compliment somebody or show gratitude for services rendered. It was not done on the basis of qualifications or of the principle of equitable geographical distribution and, in most cases, the remuneration of experts depended on their nationality.

20. To remedy that situation, the Egyptian delegation asked that, firstly, the Secretariat should supply information on the number of experts and consultants used by each department during the biennium 1982-1983, indicating their names and nationalities, as well as the number of months worked for the Organization. The Secretary-General should also study the matter in detail in order to propose at the thirty-ninth session solutions for limiting recourse to the services of experts to a minimum.

21. As a matter of principle, his delegation was strongly opposed to any unwarranted decision that could prejudice any administrative, financial or programme subject. It therefore rejected the idea of a ceiling and that of freezing resources at their current level or not introducing new programmes if they could not be financed from internal resources. That would entail slow death for the United Nations. If that was the aim, it should be clearly stated without taking refuge behind fallacious excuses. In that regard, his delegation stressed once more that all Member States were collectively responsible for the expenses of the Organization. It also shared the views of many Member States that the regional economic commissions should be strengthened, without imposing any conditions. Lastly, it welcomed the Secretary-General's decision, in consultation with Member States, to take all necessary steps to ensure that in future budget documents were not submitted late to the bodies responsible for examining them.

22. Mrs. DEREGIBUS (Argentina), recalled that, in adopting the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, her delegation had observed that the main task to be accomplished during the six years of the plan continued to be the development and strengthening of the United Nations. On that occasion she had also said that the Organization should be transformed into a much more systematic, orderly and effective instrument to direct, regulate and improve the diverse aspects of international relations in order to make the objectives and principles of the Charter a reality.

23. As to the contribution to be made by the Fifth Committee in that connection, she noted that the preparation of the programme budget was a difficult exercise in that it entailed reconciling the needs of the Organization and the positions which had been expressed in the General Assembly over the years. The real growth of the proposed programme budget submitted to the Committee was approximately 0.7 per cent, but some activities whose costs had so far only been provisionally estimated and others for which funds had not yet been requested would be dealt with in additional proposals. In that regard, her delegation accorded great importance to the implementation of decisions taken recently by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Trade and Development Board.

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(Mrs. Deregibus, Argentina)

24. Nevertheless, it was important to recall the concerns which had already been raised by her delegation in 1981 concerning the concept of a zero growth budget. While she viewed that policy as an attempt to find a mechanism which was more in line with the need to streamline programmes, she considered, nevertheless, that it should not entail a decline in resources allocated for the implementation of the economic assistance programmes benefiting millions of persons throughout the world. Although the programme managers had been requested to be as moderate as possible in their requests for funds, the Secretary-General himself had stated in the foreword to the proposed programme budget for 1984-1985 that, given the current economic circumstances, the minimum estimated growth in many cases simply compensated for the reduction in the overall level of the resources allocated to the Organization. Her delegation wondered if maintaining a restrictive policy would not have the long-term effect of compromising the attainment of the planned goals.

25. The programmes of work of the United Nations were designed, for the most part, to promote social progress and to raise standards of living through assistance to developing countries. Her delegation was firmly convinced that the Organization's budget was simply an instrument to fulfil that purpose and that its amount and structure should be determined in the light of the need to implement effectively the activities undertaken pursuant to the decisions of Member States. It was to be hoped that the commendable principles of rationalization and austerity would not merely serve as an argument to reduce the activities undertaken by the United Nations on behalf of the developing countries.

26. With regard to the setting of priorities, her delegation subscribed to the approach which the Secretary-General planned to follow in carrying out the medium-term plan, in particular concerning the implementation of the International Development Strategy and the strengthening of the four commissions in the developing regions, as well as the execution of the 1981 Nairobi Plan. Nevertheless, it shared the concern expressed by the representative of Indonesia in his statement on that item, regarding the low priority given to section 24 and the fact that no programme growth had been envisaged to ease the financial difficulties confronting developing countries in the area of technical co-operation.

27. Her delegation also expressed its concern at the increase in expenditures for common services reflected once again in the proposed programme budget. The figures contained in paragraph 19 of the first report of the Advisory Committee showed that the largest increase was proposed for established posts and that, of the net increase in resources proposed for recurrent expenses, 80 per cent was for personnel services. Those figures necessarily implied a reduction in the proportion of resources allocated to the implementation of substantive activities. The proposals of the Secretary-General also indicated that the programmes of the Organization had been maintained only through the conversion to an established basis of posts which had previously been charged to extrabudgetary resources. It was to be hoped that the administrative streamlining measures would be strengthened in order to keep the establishment of new posts to a minimum and reallocate the

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(Mrs. Deregibus, Argentina)

human resources to sectors with a high priority. In particular, it was advisable that the continued increase in the number of temporary posts should be carefully evaluated.

28. Another source of particular concern was the observation made by the Advisory Committee that it was not satisfied that the justification for the amounts requested for consultants always established that the planned expenditure was needed or that it was for services that could not be provided by regular staff. Her delegation wished to urge the Secretary-General to evaluate thoroughly in each case the need to reclassify posts in order to ensure harmonious career development. It was very interesting to see the initiative taken by the Secretary-General concerning the elaboration of a career development system and it was to be hoped that concrete proposals in that connection would be made at the next session of the Assembly. Concerning the request of the Secretary-General that the delegation should not, at the current session, demand organizational changes and further detailed programme, budget and personnel regulations, her delegation hoped that every effort would be made to undertake the administrative reform as efficiently and effectively as could be expected and intended to co-operate fully in that endeavour.

29. Mr. ENEDUANYA (Nigeria) considered that the budget growth rate of 0.7 per cent was modest in view of the growing demands on the Organization. Concerning the approach used to formulate the budget, his delegation considered that emphasis should first be placed on the programme recommendations before concentrating on the financial aspects. It was opposed to the principle of setting a ceiling on the level of resources and was encouraged by the fact that that level had not been predetermined in the proposed programme budget. While approving the elimination of certain programme elements deemed obsolete or ineffective, it considered that more care should be taken in that area to ensure that the continued implementation of activities of crucial importance to Member States, especially the developing countries, was not jeopardized. Consequently, it could not accept the view that the implementation of new programmes should be contingent on the termination of existing ones.

30. His delegation noted with satisfaction the emphasis given to economic and social activities, which were vital for the developing countries; in the programme area, the definition of priorities should continue to reflect the decisions of the relevant bodies and should be based on specific criteria.

31. His delegation also noted with satisfaction that the Secretary-General had proposed the creation of new permanent posts to enable population activities to be pursued at the regional level; it regretted that the Advisory Committee had not agreed with the proposal on technical grounds, and trusted that ACABQ would revise its position once it had received the additional information requested. Finally, in view of the need to rationalize the Organization's activities, it welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to carry out necessary administrative reforms and trusted that efforts to reorganize the Secretariat would take account of the wishes expressed by Member States in numerous General Assembly resolutions.

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32. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that the German Democratic Republic intended to meet its financial obligations as a State Member of the United Nations, but that it was not prepared to finance activities which contravened the Charter. Its position on the application of Article 19 of the Charter and the financing of the bond issue remained unchanged.

33. His delegation welcomed efforts to draw up the proposed programme budget strictly on the basis of the medium-term plan and supported the general orientation determined by the Secretary-General. Nevertheless, his delegation noted with regret that the programme budget did not meet the need for restraint in budgetary requests. It was thus all the more important to support the decisions which the Secretary-General would take, subject to approval by the General Assembly, under Article 97 of the Charter to make the activities of the Secretariat more effective. It was also important to implement decisions already taken. The German Democratic Republic, which was one of the States most under-represented in the Secretariat, emphasized the need to apply the principle of equitable geographical representation.

34. His delegation felt that efforts to establish priorities and to eliminate obsolete, ineffective or marginally useful activities should benefit from increased participation by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and that priorities should be more directly coupled with the personnel resources available. His delegation could not give its assent to the creation of 211 additional posts in the Secretariat. Recruitment as a whole should be suspended, and the Secretary-General should limit the number of posts requested to a minimum. It would also be desirable to end the persistent practice of including in the regular budget posts which had initially been financed from voluntary contributions. In that connection, he recalled that for 1982 alone such transfers had resulted in a supplementary burden on the regular budget of \$2,790,900.

35. His delegation vigorously endorsed the conclusions of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination concerning the excessive use of consultant services and the lack of precise criteria to determine their remuneration. It also supported the ACABQ proposal that Secretariat units in which vacancies remained unfilled over long periods should apply a higher turnover deduction. Furthermore, it trusted that the problems concerning health insurance for the staff members of the Secretariat could be handled without any additional financial burden on the Organization. Raising the retirement age to 62 was unacceptable to his delegation, which reminded those responsible for the suggestion of the compromise on personnel questions reached as a result of protracted negotiations.

36. The inclusion of expenditure for technical assistance in the regular budget was not justified. It was for the States concerned and the Secretariat to make new proposals for the appropriate use of contributions paid in national currencies. Experience gained in that area in other international organizations, such as IAEA, could provide a sound basis for a solution to the problem.

37. His delegation stressed the need to take account, in preparing the budget, of decisions taken by legislative bodies. Thus, on the basis of decisions taken by

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(Mr. Zachmann, German Democratic Republic)

the Industrial Development Board at its seventeenth session, the number of consultative meetings should be reduced from 15 to 6 and the number of sectoral studies should also be reduced. Additional expenditure to adjust for inflation would amount to \$150 million for the biennium 1984-1985, which represented a 10.2 per cent increase over the previous biennium. His delegation deemed it imperative to find a solution to spread the burden of inflation in an equitable and objective manner among all Member States. Finally, his delegation recommended restricting to a minimum the number of conferences held outside headquarters cities, and emphasized that all additional expenditure incurred as a result of holding meetings outside headquarters cities should be met by host countries.

AGENDA ITEM 112: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (A/38/515; A/C.5/38/26)

- (a) REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS
- (b) FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SINGLE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

38. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (A/38/515), noted that it was the first report to be submitted by the Advisory Committee in conformity with the ACABQ recommendation, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 36/229, that the detailed report on the budgets of the specialized agencies and IAEA should be submitted to the Assembly once every two years. The report under consideration was therefore shorter than it had been in the past, but included eight statistical tables containing information similar to that previously included in the reports. The contents of the tables were indicated in paragraph 4.

39. In 1983, the Advisory Committee had decided to concentrate on the two main questions dealt with in sections III and IV of the report. Section III concerned problems of cash flow and liquidity encountered by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in recent years. The Advisory Committee had considered that the information given to it on that subject by the representatives of the specialized agencies would be useful to the Fifth Committee when it considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financial emergency of the United Nations. It had not wanted to make a detailed study, since that would have delayed the submission of the report, which ACABQ had endeavoured to keep as brief as possible. Nor had it put forward specific recommendations regarding action to be taken. Its intention had been simpler: to highlight the problems of cash flow and liquidity. The Advisory Committee had reached the conclusion that, although the situation had improved, particularly in 1983, as a result mainly of the measures taken by the specialized agencies and the United Nations and of the high value of the dollar, it was still a very serious problem and should be kept under review.

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(Mr. Mselle)

40. Section IV of the report concerned programme planning, budgeting and evaluation. The Advisory Committee had felt that the information given in paragraphs 35 to 50 would highlight the arrangements made by the various specialized agencies to co-ordinate programme planning, budgeting and evaluation functions both within the secretariats and at the intergovernmental level. The Committee's main conclusion was that, although the information provided was very interesting, it could not recommend any particular arrangement for the United Nations. The arrangements which had been made were specific to the organizations concerned and served particular purposes, and those which had proved useful for one organization would not necessarily be applicable without modification in another one.

41. In conclusion, he said that the Advisory Committee was fully prepared to take into account any comments which members of the Fifth Committee would like to make concerning improvements in the presentation of the report on administrative and budgetary co-ordination or the possibility of covering additional questions in the report to be prepared for 1985.

42. Mr. SZASZ (Office of Legal Affairs), introducing the interim report on the possibility of establishing a single administrative tribunal (A/C.5/38/26), further to General Assembly resolution 37/129, reported on the progress made in the consultations undertaken by the Secretary-General to pursue the progressive harmonization and further development of the statutes, rules and practices of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organisation and of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal. Substantial progress had been made over the year. Following consultations held on the basis of the study, the outline of which had been submitted at the thirty-seventh session, the Office of Legal Affairs and the International Labour Office had prepared documents containing various proposals relating to the amendment of the statutes and other instruments governing the two Tribunals. Those studies had served as basic documents for a meeting of legal advisers of the organizations in the United Nations system held in New York in September 1983, in which representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund had also participated. At that meeting, the legal advisers had reached a general agreement on several proposals for reform. They had also agreed that those proposals should be embodied in draft amendments to the statutes and other instruments governing the two Tribunals.

43. A final series of consultations would then follow, bringing together, in addition to all the organizations subject to the jurisdiction of one or other of the Tribunals, representatives of the staff of the organizations, the members of the two Tribunals, the Registrars and representatives of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. It could reasonably be hoped that those consultations would be successfully concluded in the following 10 months and that the next report submitted to the General Assembly would be a final document containing specific proposals for reform. He also noted that the wording of that sub-item of the agenda no longer reflected the concern of the General Assembly, which, at its thirty-seventh session, had decided against the establishment of a single administrative tribunal in the short term. He accordingly proposed the adoption of

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(Mr. Szasz)

a formulation placing greater emphasis on the current objective, namely the progressive harmonization and further development of the instruments governing the two Tribunals and their practice.

AGENDA ITEM 109: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985 (continued)

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted in document A/38/L.2 concerning agenda item 23 (The situation in Kampuchea)  
(A/C.5/38/33)

44. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) noted that, under paragraphs 4, 5, 8 and 11 of draft resolution A/38/L.2, the General Assembly would authorize the Ad Hoc Committee of the International Conference on Kampuchea to continue its work, would reaffirm its decision to reconvene the Conference at an appropriate time and would request the Secretary-General to assist the Ad Hoc Committee and the Conference and to continue to co-ordinate humanitarian assistance and to monitor its distribution. The statement of administrative and financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General was divided into three parts. Part A concerned the estimates for the Ad Hoc Committee and indicated inter alia, in paragraph 4, that a D-1 post for the Secretary of the Committee and one General Service post would be needed. The Secretary-General had already included an estimate for that purpose in paragraph 3.30 of the proposed programme budget, and he recalled the comments which the Advisory Committee had made on that subject in paragraphs 3.9, 3.10 and 3.11 of its first report on the proposed programme budget.

45. Part B of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General dealt with the estimates for the International Conference on Kampuchea and paragraph 8 explained that, when a decision to convene the Conference was reached, the necessary commitments could be entered into under the terms of the resolution and unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1984-1985.

46. Part C of the statement related to co-ordination of the programme of humanitarian assistance to the Kampuchean people. Footnote 2/ to paragraph 11 should refer not to paragraph 1.49 of the proposed programme budget but to paragraph 1.149. The approximation of \$811,600 for the programme in 1982-1983 covered, inter alia, the cost of six temporary posts (one Under-Secretary-General post, one D-2 post, one D-1 post and three General Service posts). The personnel requirements had since been revised and, as was indicated in paragraph 12, the Secretary-General was proposing one Assistant Secretary-General post, one D-2 post, one P-5 post and two General Service posts for 1984. The breakdown of the estimated requirements for the programme of humanitarian assistance was given in paragraph 19. A total of \$273,400 was requested for 1984. After considering the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee had decided to inform the Fifth Committee that, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution in document A/38/L.2, an additional appropriation of \$257,900 under section 3B and \$15,500 under section 28D would be required in 1984. In addition, an amount of \$62,700 would be required for staff assessment in section 31 to be offset by an equivalent amount in Income Section 1.

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47. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) drew attention to rules 154 and 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. It was clear from those rules that the Fifth Committee was obliged to inform the General Assembly of all the financial implications of the draft resolution under consideration. According to the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, the Fifth Committee would consider only part of the implications at that stage, namely the expenditure provided for in implementation of paragraph 11. The other implications of the draft would be considered at the same time as the relevant sections of the programme budget. His delegation found that procedure strange and unprecedented and would appreciate a clarification.

48. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the USSR representative had a valid point but that, in his own view, the procedure outlined in paragraphs 7 and 8 of document A/C.5/38/33 was not unique. The Fifth Committee had already indicated in the past that, when it was not possible to determine exactly the amount of funds to be appropriated at a particular session, the Advisory Committee could act on behalf of the General Assembly if the Assembly was not in session at the time. Since the nature, date and place of the Conference could not be foreseen at the current session, the necessary commitments could be entered into under the terms of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses to be approved for 1984-1985. He did not think that the procedure envisaged in that regard would contravene the Financial Regulations of the United Nations or the provisions of the relevant rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

49. With regard to paragraph 4 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, he remarked that the Soviet Union representative's request for clarification appeared to be justified. One might wonder how the Secretary-General had been able to submit estimates for the Ad Hoc Committee before draft resolution A/38/L.2, extending the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, had been submitted to the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee had been aware of that problem and had therefore mentioned in paragraph 3.11 of its first report the reply given by the representatives of the Secretary-General to the questions which the Committee had asked them on that subject. As indicated in that paragraph, the Secretary-General had assumed that the General Assembly would extend the Ad Hoc Committee's mandate and had therefore included the posts in the proposed programme budget. Technically, the Secretary-General could be criticized for not having awaited draft resolution A/38/L.2 before submitting the estimate. The Ad Hoc Committee's mandate would, however, be renewed under the terms of that draft resolution and, if the Secretary-General had not included the estimate in the proposed budget, he would have done so in the statement of administrative and financial implications under consideration.

50. Moreover, he pointed out that adopting the draft resolution and being informed of its financial implications were not the same as appropriating funds. If it adopted draft resolution A/38/L.2, the General Assembly would be informed of its financial implications.

51. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, said that those countries would support the administrative and financial implications contained in paragraph 20 of document A/C.5/38/33, subject of course to the adoption of draft resolution A/38/L.2 by the General Assembly. It seemed, moreover, that, if it was decided to convene the International Conference on Kampuchea, financing for it would be ensured in accordance with the procedure specified in paragraph 8 of the statement of financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General.

52. Mr. NGUYEN LUONG (Viet Nam) wished to know whether the Fifth Committee was to take a decision solely on the financial implications in part C of document A/C.5/38/33, relating to the co-ordination of the Programme of Humanitarian Assistance to the Kampuchean People, or on all the implications appearing in that document, including those relating to the Ad Hoc Committee.

53. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) explained that the Fifth Committee would have to inform the General Assembly that adoption of draft resolution A/38/L.2 would necessitate requirements of \$273,400 in 1984, i.e. \$257,900 under section 3B and \$15,500 under section 28. It would also have to specify that costs of a D-1 post and a General Service post for the Ad Hoc Committee were already included under section 3 of the proposed programme budget and that an amount of \$62,700 would be required in section 31 to be offset by an equivalent amount in Income Section 1.

54. Mr. BELYAEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that one inaccuracy could lead to another. If the proposed procedure was adopted, the problem would merely be referred to the plenary Assembly, where some delegation was likely to ask why the expenditure provided for was already included in the budget estimates. Although the technical explanations given by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee could be readily grasped by the members of the Fifth Committee, who were well versed in such matters, the same was not necessarily true in the plenary Assembly. Furthermore, for the Fifth Committee to comment in its report on additional appropriations requested, all the members would have to agree on the need for the expenditure in question and might not necessarily do so, particularly with regard to the Ad Hoc Committee. He also wondered why the financial implications had not been presented in a single document before the draft resolution was submitted to the General Assembly.

55. The CHAIRMAN suggested, on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution in document A/38/L.2, additional appropriations totalling \$273,400 would be required in 1984, comprising \$257,900 under section 3B and \$15,500 under section 28D, it being understood that the additional amount of \$145,400 relating to personnel costs was already contained in the budget estimates. An additional appropriation of \$62,700 would also be required under section 31, which would be offset by an equivalent amount under Income Section 1. Furthermore, if the decision to convene the International Conference on Kampuchea was taken during 1984, the Secretary-General would be authorized to enter into the

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necessary commitments, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, under the terms of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1984-1985 to be adopted by the General Assembly at the current session.

56. Mr. NGUYEN LUONG (Viet Nam) wished to know the total costs which would be included in the regular budget if the draft resolution was adopted.

57. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) explained that the Secretariat would have to calculate the 1984 amount of the staff costs for the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee. An amount of \$145,400 had been indicated by the representatives of the Secretary-General but it related only to the maintenance for two years of one D-1 post and one General Service post; the Ad Hoc Committee's activities would, however, result in other expenses - for instance for travel, miscellaneous services and supplies.

58. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) stressed that the problem was even more involved, since, in addition to the allocations referred to in draft resolution A/38/L.2, the incumbents of the two posts provided for would be called on to discharge advisory functions, as was stated in paragraph 3.30 (a) of the proposed programme budget. On a more general level, given that the problem which had just arisen was likely to recur during the consideration of other statements of financial and administrative implications, it would be as well to resolve it forthwith.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.