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PLANNING ESTIMATE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1972

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohamed EL BARADEI (United Arab Republic)

1. Under the terms of resolution 2370 (XXII), the General Assembly decided, inter alia, that the Secretary-General, after taking into account the actions of the programme-formulating bodies, including the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, should suggest to the Assembly at each regular session a planning estimate for the United Nations regular budget estimates for the second succeeding budgetary period, which period would be referred to as the forecast period. In paragraph 7 of the same resolution, the General Assembly decided further that the first planning estimate should be considered and approved for the forecast year 1971.
2. At its twenty-fourth session, the General Assembly decided to adopt the recommendation of the Fifth Committee that the first planning estimate be postponed to the twenty-fifth session, for the forecast year 1972. In making its recommendations, the Fifth Committee had borne in mind the existing uncertainty regarding the outcome of the manpower utilization survey, which was not expected to be completed before 1971, as well as the fact that the action called for in paragraph 1 of resolution 2370 (XXII) had not yet been completed by the programme-formulating bodies.

3. At the 1387th meeting of the Committee, held on 17 November 1970, the representative of Norway stated that, in the opinion of his delegation, it would be equally difficult to consider a planning estimate for 1972 at the current session since the reasons for deferring implementation of paragraph 7 of resolution 2370 (XXII) at the twenty-fourth session were still valid in respect of 1972. Accordingly, at the 1388th meeting, the delegation of Norway proposed that the Fifth Committee should agree to recommend to the General Assembly that it decide to defer for one further year the implementation of paragraph 7 of its resolution 2370 (XXII) of 19 December 1967.

4. A number of delegations supported the proposal made by the representative of Norway. Some of these delegations wished to stress, however, that the planning estimate was an important element in the attainment of a more rational budgeting system.

5. One representative, though not opposing the postponement, had some reservations about limiting it to one year. The Secretary-General's decision to keep the total number of staff for 1971 at the 1970 level would, in his delegation's view, result in an artificial level as a basis for future projections. Secondly, the view expressed by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination that the Secretary-General should be requested to review his programme projection for 1972 and its budgetary implications in the light of the objectives to be set for the Second United Nations Development Decade, as well as the results of the manpower utilization survey, should also be taken into account when considering General Assembly resolution 2370 (XXII). Lastly, the whole question of a planning estimate would have to be viewed as an aspect of the institutional and organizational implications of programme budgeting. Another delegation concurred with this view.

6. At the 1390th meeting, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to adopt the proposal submitted by the representative of Norway (see paragraph 3 above).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

7. The Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should decide to defer for one further year the implementation of paragraph 7 of its resolution 2370 (XXII) of 19 December 1967.
