



Monday, 3 November 1952, at 3 p.m.

Headquarters, New York

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Chairman: Brigadier-General Carlos P. ROMULO (Philippines).

**Financial reports and accounts, and reports of the
Board of Auditors (concluded)**

[Item 39]*

**(c) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for
Palestine Refugees in the Near East, for the
period 1 January 1951 to 30 June 1952
(A/2207, A/2238)**

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the members of the Fifth Committee to study the accounts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, for the period 1 January 1951 to 30 June 1952, the report of the Board of Auditors (A/2207) and the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its fourth report to the seventh session of the General Assembly (A/2238).

2. Mr. BLANDFORD (Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) explained, in reply to Mr. ASHA (Syria), that the Agency was recruiting more and more members even of its technical staff from among Palestine refugees and nationals of the various countries in which it was working. The relevant figures spoke for themselves—by 30 September 1952 only 135

of a total staff of 6,071 had been recruited internationally.

3. Mr. FAHMY (Egypt) said that his delegation could not be satisfied with the division of administrative expenses equally between the relief programme and the reintegration programme, in view of the lack of balance between the administrative costs of the two programmes pointed out by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 3 of its report. Furthermore, the administrative expenses shown in statement 12 on page 16 of document A/2207 were much too high compared with the total budget of an agency whose main object was to relieve the misery of Palestine refugees. He therefore urged the Agency to reduce its administrative expenses as much as possible in order to devote the maximum amount of the contributions received to the purchase of foodstuffs, clothing and medical supplies for the refugees.

4. Mr. BLANDFORD (Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) pointed out that the lack of balance in the figures shown in paragraph 3 of the Advisory Committee's report was merely apparent. To give a correct idea of the amount of the administrative expenditure, the figures relating to it would have to be very carefully interpreted. Moreover, statement 12 was entitled "Statement of expenditure for administrative and other indirect expenses". The amount of the admin-

* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

istrative expenses proper was approximately \$2,000,000, not \$4,381,625 as the statement indicated. If the Agency succeeded in maintaining the percentage of its administrative expenses at 3 per cent of its total budget for the financial year 1952-1953, it would achieve a result of which very few international organizations could boast.

5. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq), while unreservedly approving the principle of assisting Palestine refugees, and paying a tribute to the work of the Agency, considered like the Egyptian representative that its administrative expenses were too high. They were in fact not 3 per cent but 11.5 per cent of the total expenditure on the two programmes. Travel expenses, for example, were administrative expenses.

6. It did not seem right that salaries paid to teachers should be half of those paid to chauffeurs, and that only seventy-five doctors should care for 750,000 refugees. His delegation would like the Agency's assurance that it would appreciably reduce its administrative expenses, as any waste of money was an insult to the Palestine refugees in their miserable plight.

7. Mr. BLANDFORD (Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) feared that the criticisms levelled against the Agency by the Fifth Committee might, by influencing public opinion, hamper the Agency in the heavy task which it was carrying out with the greatest devotion. Delegations which thought that travel and transportation expenses were too high should not forget that the Agency's lorries transported 10,000 tons of goods every month over a very wide area. As regards the salaries of teachers, he explained that many refugees volunteered to teach for nothing or for very small salaries. Further, some States which had so far paid for the teaching of refugee children were now compelled by financial difficulties to withhold that assistance.

8. Mr. ASHA (Syria) was gratified by the work done by the Agency for the health of refugees. He wished to know how it was combating tuberculosis. The Syrian delegation was disturbed because it had heard that certain staff members, stateless natives of Palestine, might lose their posts because of their statelessness.

9. Mr. PRICE (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services) assured the Syrian representative that the United Nations had never adopted the policy of terminating stateless members of its staff; on the contrary, it had offered many of them permanent contracts.

10. Mr. BLANDFORD (Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) said that certain States which had so far assisted the Agency to deal with tuberculosis and mental disorders and to provide special surgery for refugees needing it, were now unable to do so. The Agency was doing all in its power to care for sick refugees without exceeding its limited resources.

11. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should recommend the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly

"1. *Accepts* the accounts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the period 1 January 1951 to 30 June 1952, and the certificate of the Board of Auditors;

"2. *Takes note* of the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with respect to the report of the Board of Auditors."

The draft resolution was adopted by 42 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

(d) United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency, for the financial year ended 30 June 1952 (A/2205, A/2239)

12. The CHAIRMAN invited the Fifth Committee to study the accounts of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency for the financial year ended 30 June 1952 (A/2205), the report of the Board of Auditors, and the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its fifth report to the seventh session of the General Assembly (A/2239).

13. Mr. HALL (United States of America) noted with satisfaction the assurances given by the Agent General that the administrative expenses of the Agency would be reduced to 3.7 per cent of the total, and hoped that every effort would be made to hold administrative expenses to a minimum.

14. Mr. KINGSLEY (United Nations Agent General for Korean Reconstruction) said that the **relatively high** proportion of administrative to operational expenses was due to two reasons; first, the Agency's activities had been somewhat restricted because of the uncertain and changing situation in Korea; secondly, in the accounting system followed during the financial period under review, certain operational expenses had been included as administrative expenses. The Agency was now ready to put a large programme into operation, and administrative expenses would henceforth be a much lower percentage of total expenditure. The method of accounting administrative expenses would be reviewed.

15. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should recommend the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly

"1. *Accepts* the financial report and accounts of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency for the year ended 30 June 1952, and the certificate of the Board of Auditors;

"2. *Takes note* of the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with respect to the report of the Board of Auditors."

The draft resolution was adopted by 40 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Budget estimates for the financial year 1953:

(a) Budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General (A/2125 and Add.1, A/C.5/498 and Add.1, A/C.5/500, A/C.5/505, A/C.5/L.178, A/C.5/L.179, A/C.5/L.182); (b) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/2157, A/2244, A/C.5/499 (*continued*))

[Item 42]*

First reading (*continued*)

16. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee would not object if all documents prepared by the Secretary-General on supplementary estimates for the financial year 1953 were automatically submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions without an express decision by the Fifth Committee on each one.

17. He drew the attention of the members of the Fifth Committee to the Secretary-General's note giving a provisional forecast of Members' assessments for 1953 (A/C.5/L.182).

UNITED KINGDOM PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION FOR 1953

18. Lord CALDECOTE (United Kingdom) expressed his delegation's concern at the increase in the assessments of Member States forecast for 1953. He thought the Fifth Committee should find ways of restricting that increase. Even if the 1953 assessments could not be reduced to the level of 1952—which would mean a reduction of more than \$2,000,000 in the estimates—he considered that a reduction of \$735,000 would be reasonable in view of special expenses falling in the 1953 budget. He did not suggest that the Committee should itself make arbitrary reductions in particular sections of the budget, or should place a rigid ceiling on expenditure. The Fifth Committee should invite the Secretary-General to make proposals for achieving the necessary savings in the budget as a whole, leaving him full discretion to determine the precise distribution of the reduction so as not to impair the working of the Organization. In the meantime, the Fifth Committee could continue with the first reading of the budget estimates, and the Secretary-General could inform it before the second reading of the budget estimates how the required reduction would be distributed. The United Kingdom delegation would support the Advisory Committee's recommendations, and might abstain from voting on specific proposals for further reductions which might be made at that stage.

19. The United Kingdom delegation formally proposed that the Fifth Committee should request the Secretary-General to submit to it before the second reading stage suggestions for reducing the gross total of appropriations requested for 1953 (including all supplementary items to be presented) to \$48,700,000.

20. Mr. GANEM (France) said that, before coming to a conclusion on the United Kingdom representative's proposal, he would like to know the reason for including in the provisional forecast submitted by the

Secretary-General (A/C.5/L.182) a supplementary provision of \$530,000 for political missions, and what had caused the supplementary estimates for 1952 to reach an aggregate of \$2,438,000.

21. Mr. PRICE (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services) answered that the budgetary provision requested for political missions did not necessarily correspond to the amount that would be expended for that purpose: it would depend finally on decisions of the various bodies concerned. On the second question, he stated that the appropriations for the financial year 1952 for travel on home leave, reimbursement of national income tax to Secretariat members, and political missions had proved inadequate.

22. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) stated that the United Nations budget had practically doubled between 1946 and 1953. That situation should be remedied without delay, and the USSR delegation therefore unreservedly endorsed the proposal made by the United Kingdom representative.

23. Mr. BLANCO (Cuba) considered that the United Kingdom proposal deserved very thorough consideration and that the Committee would be wise not to take an immediate decision upon it. The Cuban delegation accordingly proposed that the discussion should be adjourned until the Committee had had time to give the proposal the careful study it deserved.

24. Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) noted that the aggregate contributions for 1953 would be approximately \$45,235,000 as against \$42,940,000 for 1952, representing an increase of some \$2,300,000. Each delegation could easily estimate from the percentage allocation its country's share of the increase. The contribution of a country whose percentage total had been reduced might be higher in spite of that reduction; on the other hand, an increased percentage would make the contribution proportionately greater.

25. In those circumstances, he considered the United Kingdom proposal particularly appropriate. The reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee that were contested by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/L.182) totalled \$337,200, part of which—say \$250,000—the Committee might approve. The meetings in Geneva of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights and the International Law Commission were likely to cost the Organization \$274,100—the proposed supplementary provision being \$169,300 (A/C.5/498), \$68,000 (A/C.5/498) and \$36,800 (A/C.5/505) respectively. The estimates in respect of the adoption by the Economic and Social Council of Spanish as a working language amounted to \$350,000. It might prove useful to consult the Sixth Committee about the estimate for evidence of customary international law (\$130,300) and inform it of the Fifth Committee's concern at the high level of contributions for 1953. The sums he had mentioned totalled \$1,004,400, which was \$300,000 more than the reduction proposed by the United Kingdom representative. Delegations would probably not reach immediate agreement on the items which could be reduced or the projects which could be deferred. An adjournment of the discussion, as proposed by the Cuban representative, would enable the delegations to agree on a number of

possible reductions which would carry out the purpose of the United Kingdom proposal.

26. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) stated that his delegation was prepared to vote for the United Kingdom proposal but would support the Cuban representative's proposal.

27. Mr. JOUBLANC RIVAS (Mexico) was convinced that the estimated \$350,000 for the adoption of Spanish as a working language of the Economic and Social Council could be reduced. He would revert to the point later.

28. Lord CALDECOTE (United Kingdom) desired that his proposal should be discussed not later than the afternoon of Wednesday, 5 November.

29. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) had listened to the United Kingdom representative's statement most attentively, but felt that the members of the Committee should have time to think about it. The proposal would necessitate much negotiation among delegations, and would benefit if its discussion were postponed to a later date.

30. The CHAIRMAN ruled that the discussion should be postponed to a later date.

SECTION 15. CONFERENCE AND GENERAL SERVICES (continued)

31. Mr. PRICE (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services) stated that the Secretary-General had no wish to prolong the controversy regarding United Nations cars and was not contesting the Advisory Committee's latest recommendations contained in its seventh report (A/2244). The Secretary-General had cut down his original request to 8 cars (5 passenger cars and 3 station wagons) on the assumption that that would meet the needs of the President of the General Assembly, members of the Advisory Committee and other United Nations bodies, and the Secretariat (including the meeting of distinguished visitors). He doubted whether the Advisory Committee's recommendations were likely to give satisfaction.

32. Mr. FAHMY (Egypt) stated that the Egyptian delegation would abstain from voting for two reasons. In the first place, the Fifth Committee should not fall into the habit of referring back to the Advisory Committee, items on which the Secretary-General was contesting the Advisory Committee's recommendations. It should shoulder its own responsibilities, and not compel the Advisory Committee to seek a compromise. Secondly, the use of cars for official business caused waste, and for that reason the Egyptian Government had recently abolished the use of official cars, even for members of the Council of Ministers.

33. Mr. ISNOR (Canada) expressed satisfaction with the Secretary-General's attitude. The Canadian delegation would vote for the Advisory Committee's new recommendations, which did not in his view err on the side of extravagance.

34. Mr. BOTHA (Union of South Africa) regarded paragraph 3 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/2244) as particularly important. Indeed, everything depended on the interpretation of the term "official business". He asked the Chairman of the Advisory

Committee whether the President of the General Assembly might not possibly use one of the United Nations cars rather than one specially hired for the purpose, and whether the provision for cars under contractual hire replaced the provision for reimbursement of taxi fares, deleted by the Advisory Committee.

35. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) explained that the second method had been deemed more appropriate to the position of the President of the Assembly than to assign him a used United Nations car. The Advisory Committee had increased the provision for cars under contractual hire so as partially to offset the deletion of the provision for reimbursement of taxi fares.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation to increase the estimate for section 15 by \$15,800, in respect of 4 posts of chauffeur, was approved by 39 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.

36. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should discuss the USSR amendment (A/C.5/L.178) proposing a reduction of \$94,800 in the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 15.

37. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) explained that the issue had been thoroughly re-examined by his delegation. The detailed proposals in document A/C.5/L.178 represented a minimum reduction that could be adopted without the slightest fear of disorganizing services. The USSR delegation accordingly maintained its proposal.

38. Mr. PSCOLKA (Czechoslovakia) drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 73 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/2157), in particular to the last sentence. He was of the same opinion as the Advisory Committee regarding the size of the staffs attached to the offices of Assistant Secretaries-General and directors, but thought the reductions which that Committee recommended for section 15 inadequate. Hence, the Czechoslovak delegation welcomed the USSR proposal, which would enable simplification of the Department's administrative structure and would effect economies by abolishing unnecessary intermediary posts without in any way impairing the Department's output.

39. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) failed to see how he could vote for or against the USSR draft amendment in the absence of comment from the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General. The Norwegian delegation would therefore abstain.

40. Lord CALDECOTE (United Kingdom) found himself in a similar position and would also abstain. He hoped, however, that that might serve as an indication to the Secretary-General of his Government's views on the scope for further economies and that the Secretary-General would bear it in mind if the Committee eventually adopted the earlier United Kingdom proposal.

41. Mr. JOUBLANC RIVAS (Mexico) shared the view of the Norwegian and United Kingdom representatives and would also abstain. He did not, however, deem it advisable to eliminate three posts in the Publishing Division.

42. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) concurred with the Norwegian, United Kingdom and Mexican representatives.

43. Mr. HALL (United States of America) noted that the Fifth Committee was regarding section 15 from a point of view very different from that which it had hitherto taken. He wondered whether the discussion should not be adjourned until the United Kingdom proposal had been debated.

44. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the United Kingdom representative had himself proposed that the Committee should continue its first reading. The Committee should not forget that decisions taken on first reading were provisional; there was therefore no point in delay.

45. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) took the same view as the United States representative. Some recommendations might certainly be approved in first reading. Nevertheless, if the United Kingdom proposal were adopted, the present discussion would influence the Secretary-General in framing subsequent proposals. The Committee ought to specify the items to which reductions should be applied. It would therefore not be desirable to put the USSR amendment and the Advisory Committee's recommendations to an immediate vote.

46. Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands), Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) and Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) endorsed the Chairman's proposal for the procedure to be followed.

47. Mr. LALL (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services) commented on the USSR proposal by itself, apart from the United Kingdom proposal. He said that he had always tried to effect all possible economies in his Department and thought that his orders for that purpose had led to concrete results. Despite the increasing number of meetings and volume of documentation, the number of permanent posts in his Department had been reduced by 86 since January 1951. Moreover, the Advisory Committee had examined in detail the Department's budget estimates for 1953.

48. The USSR proposal would first abolish one post in the office of the Assistant Secretary-General. Of all the offices of Assistant Secretaries-General, his had the smallest staff. The post which the USSR representative proposed to eliminate had been established to centralize all the administrative duties of the Department. The new Executive Officer would replace the Executive Officers who had previously been attached to each bureau. The establishment of that post saved two posts elsewhere, which meant economy.

49. The USSR representative further proposed to eliminate three posts in the Conference Section. Those posts had been in existence for two years but on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee had been filled by temporary staff. The number of conferences and meetings to be expected at Headquarters had made it necessary to convert them into established posts to enable the section to perform all its duties: to ensure necessary co-ordination with the United Nations Office at Geneva and with the specialized agencies, to prepare the budget estimates for all United Nations conferences held at Headquarters and elsewhere and to keep the

accounts of those expenses, and to organize the actual meetings at Headquarters.

50. The USSR also proposed to eliminate three posts in the Publishing Division. The USSR representative had not given any special reason for that part of his proposal. The Division had been reorganized a few months ago to effect economies in the handling, reproduction, storage and distribution of documents. Those reforms were being carried out. If, when they were finished, further savings could be made under allocations for staff, he would propose them himself, but at the present time any reduction in the complement of that Division would be most ill-advised.

51. With regard to the reductions proposed by the USSR representative in respect of temporary assistance, overtime and night differential, Mr. Lall recalled that expenditure on temporary assistance had amounted to \$314,096 in 1951; the provision approved for that item in 1952 had been \$201,900; and the appropriation requested for 1953, namely \$175,000, was \$26,000 lower than the previous figure. To reduce it by a further \$30,000 would seriously impair the working of the Department. The funds requested for overtime and night differential were \$12,700 more than those appropriated for 1952, but in 1953 the Buildings Management Service, which had been transferred to Administrative and Financial Services, would once again be attached to his Department. The security and maintenance functions performed by the Buildings Management Service necessarily entailed expenditure for overtime and night differential. The additional \$12,700 requested for that item was in no way excessive.

52. Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands) thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for his explanation and said that she would vote for the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

53. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) feared that the adoption of the USSR proposal might disrupt a service which was operating satisfactorily. The Belgian delegation would vote against the USSR proposal.

54. Mr. THORSING (Sweden) said he had found the USSR proposal very interesting at first glance but, after Mr. Lall's explanation, he could not support it and would abstain from voting.

55. Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that when he had submitted his proposal on the Department of Conference and General Services he had supported it with detailed arguments. The reduction he proposed to make in section 15 of the budget estimates was only an insignificant percentage of the total allocation proposed for the section. It could therefore not be alleged that the adoption of his proposal would seriously impair the working of the Department. Only seven posts would be abolished out of 1,715.

56. With regard to the post of Executive Officer in Mr. Lall's office, he referred to the comments in paragraph 73 of the Advisory Committee's report and pointed out that the post did not exist at the present time. As for the budget estimates for the Conference Section, the number of meetings estimated for 1953 was less than in 1952. With regard to the Publishing

Division, the Secretary-General should take the provisions of General Assembly resolution 593 (VI) more fully into account.

57. He was surprised at the attitude of certain delegations which had spoken in favour of economy during the general debate but had afterwards voted against measures aimed at achieving it.

58. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the USSR proposal to reduce by \$94,800 the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 15.

The USSR proposal was rejected by 14 votes to 5, with 25 abstentions.

59. Mr. ISNOR (Canada), who had voted against the USSR proposal, said that the Canadian delegation wanted economies to be made, but wanted them made in proper fashion. He did not see how the reductions proposed by the USSR delegation could have been carried out. Mr. Lall's explanations had been clear and reasonable. The expenses on certain items obviously could not be reduced. His delegation, therefore, would confine itself for the time being to supporting the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

60. The USSR representative had said that his proposal, if adopted, would not impair the working of the Department. The Canadian delegation thought that remark rather gratuitous in view of Mr. Lall's explanations and of the detailed study of the Department's budget estimates made by the Advisory Committee.

61. Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) said that, before passing from section 15, he wished to stress the significance of the paragraphs in chapter I of the Advisory Committee's report which dealt with documentation. The Fifth Committee had already endorsed the observations made in paragraphs 32 and 33 of that chapter. He proposed that it should also endorse the observations in paragraphs 23 to 31. That was a field in which delegations could contribute as much to economies as the Secretariat. There was no point in reducing allocations for summary records unless the volume of the records was compressed. The Fifth Committee should lend its weight in support of the Secretary-General in discussions he might have with delegations designed to keep the volume of summary records down. He suggested that the report of the Fifth Committee should record that it endorsed paragraph 23 and the succeeding paragraphs of the Advisory Committee's report.

62. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Fifth Committee supported the Australian representative's proposal.

63. Mr. LALL (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services) wholeheartedly endorsed the Advisory Committee's observations.

64. The CHAIRMAN called for a discussion of the Chinese proposal (346th meeting) to increase the allocations proposed for section 15 by \$50,000 to establish new posts for Chinese translators.

65. Mr. HSIA (China) observed that the rules of procedure required translation backlog to be cleared up. He thanked the Secretary-General for his survey of the question (A/C.5/L.179).

66. The translation backlog in the Chinese section amounted now to about 28,000 pages. With its present complement the section could translate annually about 9,000 pages of the backlog. Any estimate of the cost of clearing up the backlog was, however, rather theoretical, for no one knew when the necessary staff could be recruited or the amount of new documentary material the section would have to translate in 1953. Rather than make a provision based on estimates of doubtful accuracy, the Chinese delegation proposed that an additional allocation of \$50,000 should be included in the budget of the Chinese Translation Section, to be used by the Secretary-General in the best manner for clearing up the translation backlog.

67. Mr. STRAUCH (Brazil) pointed out that according to the Secretary-General's statement the Chinese translation backlog could be cleared off in three years without additional expense.

68. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) said that although his country produced large quantities of paper pulp, he wondered whether it was really necessary to clear up the entire backlog of Chinese translation. He knew very well that the Chinese representative had not submitted his proposal from national pride, but he wondered how and by whom that mass of documents would be used.

69. Mr. HSIA (China) did not think that the entire translation backlog could really be cleared off in three years without increasing the staff of the section. He replied to the Norwegian representative that his delegation had already informed the Secretary-General that it would waive translation of a considerable part of the backlog. It had merely asked that the essential documents should be translated.

70. Mr. JOUBLANC RIVAS (Mexico) observed that under the rules of procedure all official documents of the General Assembly were to be translated into all the official languages. He thought, however, that it would be inappropriate to spend considerable sums merely to speed up the liquidation of the backlog.

71. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) thought that the problem of the translation backlog should be studied in more detail. He would revert to it when the Committee discussed the adoption of Spanish as a working language of the Economic and Social Council.

72. Mr. HALL (United States of America) wondered whether any outside check was made on the average number of pages produced by translators. He hoped that interpreters were used for translation when they were not in meetings.

73. Mr. LALL (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Conference and General Services) said that he was reliably informed that the output of the members of the Chinese translation section was normal. The figure given in the Secretariat's document represented the number of pages the section had translated since 31 December 1950.

The Chinese proposal was rejected by 15 votes to 8, with 17 abstentions.

74. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's revised recommendation of a total appropriation of \$9,480,800 for section 15.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation was approved by 41 votes to 5.

SECTION 18. COMMON SERVICES; SECTION 19. PERMANENT EQUIPMENT

75. Mr. HALL (United States of America) requested an assurance that, when the existing contracts for the operation and maintenance of telecommunications equipment expired, open bids would be invited for the new contracts.

76. Mr. PRICE (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services) gave the assurance requested.

77. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the appropriation previously approved for section 18 should be reduced by \$4,000.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation was approved by 40 votes to 5.

78. The CHAIRMAN then put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the appropriation previously approved for section 19 should be increased by \$7,350.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation was approved by 40 votes to 5.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.