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Chairman : Prince WAN WAITHAYAKON (Thailand).

**Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter VIII, section I) (A/1884<sup>1</sup>) (continued)**

[Item 11]\*

**Co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies : (a) Administrative budgets of the specialized agencies and the development of common services: report of the Secretary-General; (b) Concentration of effort and resources: report of the Economic and Social Council (A/1812 and Add.1,<sup>2</sup> A/1956, A/1971, A/C.2&3/97-A/C.5/450, A/C.2&3/99 - A/C.5/456, A/C.2&3/100 - A/C.5/457, A/C.2&3/102-A/C.5/459, and A/C.2&3/103-A/C.5/460) (continued)**

[Item 28]\*

1. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) thought the two items before the Committees meeting jointly: co-ordination and the concentration of effort and resources, should be considered separately. For the time being, therefore, he would speak only of the former.

2. He did not see any reason to change the structure of the bodies which had been established at San Francisco and whose work had given good results. He thought, however, that their methods of work might be somewhat modified so as to enhance their efficiency. While he was not intending to submit a formal draft resolution, he would present three definite proposals which he would like to be included in the report in the form of recommendations.

3. The first of his proposals dealt with the reports

which the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) submitted annually to the Economic and Social Council. In 1949, the Council had adopted a resolution requesting that those reports should consist of two parts, one dealing with the work done by the ACC during the year and the other specifying the matters which the Committee had been unable to settle and giving the reasons for its inability to do so. Hitherto, however, the Secretariat had not given effect to that resolution, and consequently neither the Committees meeting jointly nor the Economic and Social Council knew what were the matters on which the ACC had encountered insurmountable difficulties. He therefore proposed that the Secretariat should be called upon to comply with resolution 259 (IX) adopted by the Council in August 1949, or explain the reasons which prevented it from doing so.

4. His second proposal concerned the procedure to be followed in considering the parts of the ACC report dealing with administrative matters. Usually, the whole report was submitted to the Economic and Social Council, which had neither the time nor the experts necessary for a proper consideration of the administrative parts. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was responsible for examining the administrative budgets of the specialized agencies, and to some extent its work in that connexion duplicated the work, already mentioned, of the Economic and Social Council. Since there was no doubt that the Advisory Committee was in a better position than the Council to consider purely administrative matters, it might be more suitable for only part of the report of the ACC to be sent to the Council, while the administrative parts were sent directly to the Advisory Committee. In that way the Advisory Committee would be

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Session, Supplement No. 3.*

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

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplements No. 5 and 5A.*

responsible for transmitting to the Joint Second and Third Committee and to the Fifth Committee not only a report on the administrative budgets of the specialized agencies but also the report on the administrative aspect of co-ordination.

5. His third proposal related to the methods to be adopted in examining administrative budgets for the execution of programmes financed with the help of voluntary contributions. At present, those budgets were not within the Advisory Committee's competence. Thus, when the Advisory Committee submitted to the Fifth Committee the administrative budget for technical assistance, for example, its report related only to a sum of \$300,000 received as obligatory contributions, while the expenditure of the \$9 million provided by voluntary contributions was entirely outside its control. It was no secret, however, that the administrative costs of the different programmes varied from between 6 and 7 per cent for some programmes to as high as 20 per cent for others, a quite abnormal difference. It was therefore necessary to make the Advisory Committee responsible for examining the administrative budgets for programmes financed from voluntary contributions. That procedure would not lessen the charitable aspect of such programmes, but would facilitate their administration. That was all the more important since the total amount of the voluntary contributions was several times higher than the total of the obligatory contributions.

6. Mr. ADARKAR (India) drew attention to a Brazilian proposal (A/1956, paragraph 14) for a ceiling on expenditure to be charged to the normal budget of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. That suggestion was directly related to the problem of co-ordination. In that connexion it might be recalled that by its resolution 411 (V) the General Assembly had already requested the specialized agencies to stabilize their expenditure, but progress in that respect had been very slow, and consequently more effective measures, such as the fixing of a ceiling, were required.

7. In its report (A/1956, paragraph 10), the Advisory Committee stated that the Secretary-General estimated a total expenditure of almost \$12 million on economic and social work during the 1952 financial year. He agreed with the Secretary-General that that amount was the maximum which Member States could reasonably be asked to contribute for the purpose, and in his opinion, it should be specified that it was the maximum amount. In that connexion he recalled that some specialized agencies, e.g. the Universal Postal Union and the World Meteorological Organization, had already begun to apply the ceiling system. It would be useful to have additional information on the subject for the benefit of the other organizations.

8. He approved the recommendations described in document A/1956, paragraph 21 on methods to be adopted for stabilizing expenditure. While the main organs of each organization should have control over the programmes, final responsibility should rest with the administrative and budgetary committee of the organization concerned. He also approved the principle that the General Assembly should ask the Secretary-General to prepare for 1953 budget estimates not exceeding a stated figure, and to present those estimates more clearly and methodically.

9. Proceeding to arrears of contributions, he said that on the basis of the figures given under table K of document A/1812/Add.1 he had found that the position was as follows :

	Owing on contributions for 1950	Owing on contributions for years previous to 1950
United Nations .....	2,419,306	175,187
ILO .....	439,431	314,992
FAO .....	480,999	1,114,041
UNESCO .....	930,619	1,442,025
WHO .....	1,519,133	1,341,386
ITU .....	1,191,000	211,305

10. Appeals to the Member States concerned did not suffice for recovery of those arrears. It might therefore be useful to have additional information on the provisions relating to the voting rights of defaulting States. The ACC, which had considered the question of arrears, had expressed the view that it would be desirable to have a common approach in so far as the experience of the different organizations in the matter of the collection of contributions permitted (A/C.2&3/100-A/C.5/457, paragraph 9). Nothing, however, had been done so far in that direction, and the Advisory Committee should give the matter its full attention so that the General Assembly might take the necessary action as soon as possible. While not proposing a formal resolution on the subject, he would like his observations to be mentioned in the Committees' report.

11. As for the use of soft currencies (A/C.2&3/100-A/C.5/457, paragraph 11), he recognized that the United Nations had made progress in that respect by using such currencies for about 22 per cent of its expenditure. The United Nations and the specialized agencies, however, should make more frequent use of soft currencies.

12. The secretariats of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies might use such currencies to make a greater proportion of their purchases in countries outside the hard currency area. The salaries and allowances of staff members stationed in those countries could also be paid in soft currency. The ACC had already expressed the view that the pound sterling could be used for that purpose and he expressed his appreciation of the assurance given by the United Kingdom Government that it would facilitate the conversion into the greatest possible number of other currencies of the pounds sterling paid by Member States as contributions.

13. In paragraph 13 of its report, however, the ACC stated that the Secretary-General would not use pounds sterling for purchase of other currencies where the value of such other currencies, at exchange rates available to the United Nations, would be more than their cost in terms of pounds sterling converted to dollars at the effective rates between dollars and sterling. The principle was intrinsically right, but an over-rigid application might prevent any use being made of soft currencies, since it was clear that in almost every case the transactions which the use of such currencies would entail cost slightly more in dollars than the direct conversion of pounds into dollars. The ACC and the directors of the specialized agencies should, therefore, be asked to agree to slightly greater expenditures than would be required by direct conversion into dollars, in order to facilitate the use of the currencies in question. The representative of India had, moreover, proposed in the Fifth Committee,<sup>3</sup> that the heads of the specialized agencies should be recommended to establish a compensation fund to offset fluctuations in the rates of exchange. The Advisory Committee should examine the matter in greater detail.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Fifth Committee, 305th meeting.

14. As regards the question of common staff regulations (A/C.2&3/100-A/C.5/457, paragraph 26) the fact that the salary scale was drawn up in terms of dollars for all the specialized agencies gave rise to many difficulties and placed staff members of international organizations stationed in countries other than the United States in an unduly favourable position as compared with local officials. For that reason he supported the resolution of the World Health Organization contained in annex I of document A/C.2&3/100-A/C.5/457, but hoped that the salary differentials suggested would not in any case increase the basic salaries of the officials concerned compared with what they would receive in New York.

15. As regards the recruitment of staff, he recognized that in the first few years of their existence the international organizations had had to disregard to some extent the principle of geographical distribution in order to recruit adequately qualified staff. But the situation had changed since then and many so-called backward countries would now be able to provide experts, particularly if they were asked for them well in advance.

16. The principle should therefore be applied more strictly. India, for its part, complained that it was not fairly represented in the secretariats of certain specialized agencies, particularly in the higher posts.

17. Lastly, with regard to the functions of the Advisory Committee, the Brazilian representative had submitted to the Fifth Committee a draft resolution<sup>4</sup> proposing that the Advisory Committee should be asked to scrutinize the administrative budgets of programmes financed by voluntary contributions. The Indian delegation considered that the joint meeting of the Joint Second and Third Committee and the Fifth Committee was in a much better position than the Fifth Committee to study and approve that draft resolution, and it hoped that the Brazilian representative would submit it to the Joint Committees.

18. Two other Brazilian proposals concerning the new functions to be performed by the Advisory Committee were contained in document A/1956, paragraph 22. He considered the proposal in sub-paragraph (f) very acceptable and he hoped that the ACC would finally adopt it. The proposal in sub-paragraph (g) overlapped with the Brazilian draft resolution to which he had just referred.

19. Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) welcomed the joint meeting. The Fifth Committee and the Second and Third Committees were in fact co-ordinate bodies, none of them with executive powers, but all charged with the responsibility of advising the General Assembly on different aspects of the same problem.

20. Last year his delegation had proposed in the Fifth Committee<sup>5</sup> that a ceiling should be placed on United Nations expenditure on economic and social activities. That proposal was admittedly a radical one, but, in the opinion of his delegation, the constant increase in the number of projects approved by the Economic and Social Council, threatened to involve Member States in expenditure in excess of their capacity to pay—a particular manifestation of which was the increase in the number of States in arrears of contributions—and to exceed available human resources.

21. It was true that to remove those apprehensions, which were not peculiar to the Australian delegation,

the Economic and Social Council had adopted various resolutions on the establishment of priorities and the concentration of resources. Nevertheless, his delegation had believed these resolutions to be incomplete as they stood since programmes might be set on foot which individually satisfied all the established criteria but which in their totality exceeded available human and financial resources. The method of budget limitation, although artificial, appeared to present the only practical solution.

22. The use of indirect methods, however, appeared to have been more satisfactory than had been anticipated. The Secretary-General, for example, had been able to inform the Economic and Social Council that if it accepted his proposals to postpone or retard the implementation of certain programmes he would be able to discharge his responsibilities without any increase in appropriations.

23. It was a matter for satisfaction that in the budget estimates for 1952 the appropriations for the Departments of Economic Affairs and Social Affairs were substantially the same as in the previous financial year, while the total allocation for all economic and social activities had even been reduced slightly. If that favourable trend continued, it would be unnecessary to introduce budgetary limitations, which should be used only as a last resort.

24. The Secretary-General should therefore be congratulated and should be asked, provided that proper financial procedures were observed, to continue to submit similar reports not only to the Economic and Social Council but also to its commissions. The Secretary-General had been criticized in the Fifth Committee for having omitted to present detailed estimates to the Economic and Social Council of the financial consequences of the Council's decisions. The Australian delegation agreed that such estimates should be submitted. In fact they might be made more detailed and might be related to expenditure on current similar programmes.

25. Australia also approved the proposal contained in paragraph 21 (a) of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1956) concerning the need to compare the results achieved with expenditure for economic and social activities, and to ensure that no short-term activity became a permanent activity without a thorough examination.

26. On the other hand, he was critical of the proposal in paragraph 21 (b) of that report, that the Assembly might ask the Secretary-General to prepare budget estimates for 1953 not exceeding a given figure, and to indicate which projects would need to be eliminated or deferred in order to keep within the ceiling figure. The proposal appeared to cover all United Nations activities—political, legal, trusteeship, economic and social and so on. The Secretary-General could not possibly make an informed recommendation to the Assembly as to whether a trusteeship programme should be dropped and a legal programme retained. The proposal on similar lines submitted by the Australian delegation related only to activities within the competence of one of the principal organs of the United Nations.

27. As regards the Norwegian representative's proposal, made at the previous meeting, as to the possibility of

<sup>4</sup> See document A/C.5/L.120.

<sup>5</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Fifth Committee*, 281st meeting.

framing a joint budget for the United Nations and the specialized agencies, he recalled that the Australian delegation had supported that idea in the early days of the United Nations. It had, however, proved impossible to apply in practice because of the difficulties due to the autonomous powers enjoyed by the various agencies, differences in membership, and the like. However, if the Norwegian representative could submit proposals which would enable those difficulties to be resolved, the Australian delegation would be happy to consider them.

28. With reference to resolution 411 (V) of the General Assembly, recommending the specialized agencies to stabilize their budgets, it was clear from the first table of document A/1971 that the total of the specialized agencies' budgets for 1952 showed an increase of approximately \$3 million. There was little point in the Assembly's reiterating its resolution, but he hoped each Member State would instruct its representative on the specialized agencies concerned to see that the resolution was implemented. He emphasized that a number of specialized agencies, more especially WHO, had failed to comply with the recommendations concerning salary differentials, and asked that the point should be mentioned in the Rapporteur's report. He also drew attention to the excessive appropriation for travel expenses in the budget of certain specialized agencies and asked that that subject too should be referred to in the Rapporteur's report.

29. In connexion with the organization of the Conference Services in Geneva, he asked the Secretary-General's representative for particulars of the work capacity at Geneva at various periods throughout the year. He pointed out in connexion with the report on co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies (A/C.2&3/103-A/C.5/460) that even if the reimbursement rates due from one organization to another for the services of staff borrowed from the latter were higher than the salaries of temporary staff, it did not follow that it was necessary to recruit temporary staff. Any saving to the organization concerned would be more than offset by the increased expenditure for Member States as a whole.

30. Mr. YU (China) paid tribute to the work done by the ACC and by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and congratulated the Secretary-General's representative on his statement. The Chinese delegation attached great importance to the Economic and Social Council's work, which was being carried on in accordance with Article 55 of the Charter, and the importance of which, for the maintenance of peace, was not less than that of the Security Council. The Economic and Social Council should therefore be encouraged, and its task should be facilitated and not hampered by any limitations based on budgetary considerations.

31. With regard to the proposals submitted by the Economic and Social Council and by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, his delegation could not agree to the proposals of the latter for an expenditure ceiling, and that the Secretary-General should be authorized to select those activities which should be abandoned. Only the Economic and Social Council—and neither the Secretary-General nor the Fifth Committee—was competent to assess the respective importance of the various activities within its jurisdiction and those which should, if necessary, be dropped or postponed. The Secretary-General, assisted

by the Secretariat, had, of course, done excellent work in the administrative field, but he could not be assigned a function which did not come within the scope of his duties as defined in the Charter. It was a matter for satisfaction that the Economic and Social Council had decided to include on the provisional agenda of its 1952 summer session the question of priorities, which would no doubt make it possible to arrive at a satisfactory solution.

32. He was extremely satisfied with the work done by the specialized agencies which had achieved appreciable progress during the past year. Those excellent results were due to the fact that the member States of the specialized agencies had shown a sincere spirit of co-operation. In ensuring the success of an international organization, the fact of having the largest possible number of members was less important than the co-operation of members and the absence of elements which refused to make any real contribution.

33. It was impossible, as the supporters of a strict limitation of budgetary expenditure desired, to estimate the expenditure which would prove necessary in the future. Thus, at the beginning of 1950, it had been impossible to estimate expenditure for assistance to war victims in Korea, and yet that expenditure called for the very highest priority. The United Nations must not be prevented by an expenditure ceiling from meeting any similar unforeseen expenditure that might arise in the future.

34. He reserved his right to speak again during the discussion on the various draft resolutions.

35. Mr. ABBASI (Pakistan) requested particulars concerning the proportion represented by staff costs in the total budget estimates of the United Nations and the specialized agencies for 1952. He also wished to know the total staff costs of each organization.

36. Generally speaking, he agreed with the Brazilian and Indian representatives' suggestions, but reserved his right to comment on them later.

37. He shared the Chinese representative's view that the selection of programmes to be implemented should not be left to one person. The choice of programmes, particularly of those of interest to under-developed countries, should be made by the competent bodies of the Economic and Social Council, in agreement with the under-developed countries concerned.

38. Mr. CORLEY SMITH (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was greatly interested by the Brazilian and Australian proposals. The Australian representative had made some remarks about the extent of the powers of the Fifth Committee. He might not have understood them aright but the view of the United Kingdom delegation was that the Fifth Committee had a fundamental part to play, since the financial implications of the decisions taken by other United Nations bodies were of decisive importance.

39. He shared the Brazilian representative's view of the competence of the Economic and Social Council in the administrative and budgetary fields. The Council had no authority in financial matters and had no subsidiary body capable of advising it in those matters. It was true that at the end of each session, the Council studied the financial implications of the decisions which it was taking. That, however, was in practice little more than a formality, since the Secretariat could not at that time accurately estimate all the financial impli-

cations of the Council's decisions; moreover, the discussion usually took place in plenary meeting and the members of the Council, who were generally not particularly qualified in that field, did not go into details. The Council heard a certain number of statements of a general character, and on that occasion some delegations reserved their governments' right to comment in detail in the Fifth Committee on the financial implications of the Council's decisions.

40. Furthermore, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had pointed out that the Advisory Committee was not competent to examine the substance of decisions taken by other United Nations bodies. Clearly, it was materially impossible for anyone to study exhaustively both the documentation on questions of substance and that on administrative and budgetary implications; some division of work was therefore necessary for a rational study of the effects of the Council's decisions.

41. The United Kingdom representative in the Fifth Committee had stressed the need for stabilizing certain sections in the United Nations budget, more especially the total appropriations for the implementation of the Economic and Social Council's decisions.<sup>6</sup> During its recent sessions, the Council itself had very carefully examined the question of priorities, but the decisions taken in that connexion, in particular the third part of resolution 402 B (XIII), did not solve the fundamental problem of programming in the light of work priorities and of resources actually and potentially available. The annual revision of the work priorities of the specialized agencies which the Council had undertaken to make for the second consecutive year might well not prove very profitable. However, the Council might usefully turn its attention to the effect of its own decisions upon expenditure of effort and resources, thereby facilitating the elaboration of a balanced, integrated and realistic programme of work.

42. Experience showed that the present method of submitting to the Council a report on the financial implications of any draft resolution it was proposing to adopt, provided the Council with insufficient particulars such as did not enable it to take an informed decision on the question whether the expenditure entailed by the implementation of its work programme as a whole was excessive or not. The reports on financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General to the Council were incomplete in the sense that they only showed the net total of the supplementary expenditure arising out of a particular decision. They did not show the total cost of the implementation of each new programme in comparison with other programmes and they did not mention the effects of the Council's decisions on the work already being carried out by the Secretariat. The Council had the impression that if the expenditure relating to the implementation of a particular decision could be entirely "absorbed" within the limits of the funds already appropriated, such a decision would not have any financial implication. The United Kingdom delegation did not think that, under those conditions, the Council could have a clear idea of the budgetary repercussions of its work taken as a whole. Furthermore, in the last analysis, it was not the Council which should take decisions on the budgetary aspects of its work programme; that was a function of the General Assembly.

The Secretary-General should not have to inform the Fifth Committee of irrevocable financial undertakings made in implementation of a resolution which the Council had adopted a few weeks previously.

43. Moreover, one might well ask whether, having regard to its present procedure, the Fifth Committee was truly in a position to make a thorough study of the work programme resulting from the Economic and Social Council's decisions as a whole before the Secretariat was obliged to undertake their implementation. The organization's budget estimates were framed each year before the Council's summer session; they were studied by the Advisory Committee, then by the Fifth Committee at a first reading, generally before the Secretary-General had drawn up the supplementary budget estimates arising out of the Council's most recent decisions. Furthermore, the supplementary budget estimates submitted to the Fifth Committee presented the same disadvantages as the reports on the financial implications submitted previously to the Council itself. Moreover, one might ask whether the Fifth Committee, which received valuable information in the information annexes to the budget estimates, did, in fact, have before it a document giving an adequate summary of the expenditure relating to the work programmes of the Department of Economic Affairs, the Department of Social Affairs, and various subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council. That did not appear to be the case. It seemed that the Fifth Committee was never really in a position to gauge the financial implications of new proposals while taking full account of the expenditure on activities already approved.

44. His delegation did not propose that the United Nations budget should be either wholly or partially established in terms of work programmes rather than in terms of the existing organization of the Secretariat. It was true that if there was a trend towards stabilization of the budget, the form in which it was currently presented was certainly preferable. But the study by the General Assembly of the budgetary aspects of programmes in the economic and social fields would be considerably facilitated if certain changes were made in the presentation of estimates of expenditure and the procedure followed in examining them.

45. So far as presentation was concerned, the Secretary-General should enlarge and alter table C of the information annex to the budget estimates, breaking down the appropriations requested for the relevant sections of the budget estimates into their constituent elements in terms of the various activities the Secretary-General proposed to undertake in the economic and social fields. The Secretary-General might in addition classify the various programmes according to priority as he had done in the first part of document A/C.5/450. Assuming that the budget estimates would be ready in the middle of May, the document thus prepared might be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council at its summer session. That analysis would help the Council when it had to take decisions on its programme of work; in particular, it would enable the Secretariat, after the closure of the Council's summer session, to prepare a new version of the table from which the expenditure consequent on the decisions taken at the Council's last session would clearly emerge. That amended table would be distributed to Members of the General Assembly before the Fifth Committee examined the sections of the budget relating to economic and social questions.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Sixth Session, Fifth Committee, 287th meeting.

46. The suggestions he had just made with regard to presentation also had important procedural consequences. There might be a review of the procedure currently followed by the Council in examining the financial implications of its decisions and of the procedure it was proposing to follow in implementing the decision taken under resolution 402 B (XIII), namely, to establish priorities and eliminate or defer less urgent projects, the Council having felt that account should be taken of the financial implications of projects and priorities in order to achieve the concentration of effort and resources.

47. So far as the General Assembly was concerned, it might be thought that the Fifth Committee, having at its disposal the analysis of work programmes he had mentioned and the priorities adopted would be able to decide much more easily the total appropriations which should be made for the sections of the budget relating to economic and social activities. It was however obvious that, if it were to proceed in that way, the Fifth Committee would have to suspend its examination of the relevant sections of the budget until it had received the estimates of additional expenditure, the revised analysis of work programmes and the Advisory Committee's report on them.

48. In conclusion, he said that since the question was complicated and technical, he would have a working paper summarizing the suggestions he had just made distributed to members of the Committee. Moreover, it was not expedient for the Committee itself to examine in detail the suggestions he had just made. The best method would therefore be to establish a sub-committee to study the question and report.

49. Mr. AGHNIDES, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, recalled that the proposals of Brazil and Australia had been transmitted to the Advisory Committee on the initiative of the Economic and Social Council. It was for that reason that in paragraph 22 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/1956), the Committee explained that the adoption of certain elements in those proposals would require an extension of existing functions performed by the Committee. It was for the joint meeting to make such a recommendation if it considered it desirable.

50. Some members of the Committee had raised objections to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 21 (b) of its report according to which the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to prepare budget estimates not exceeding a given figure, and to indicate, when submitting those estimates, which

projects would need to be eliminated or deferred in order to keep within the ceiling figure. There was no question of giving the Secretary-General dictatorial powers: but the fact was that the Secretary-General was the person best qualified to give the indications mentioned with complete objectivity. Besides, the General Assembly was the organ most competent to decide what work should be eliminated or deferred in order to keep within any ceiling figure which it itself might fix. The Advisory Committee had limited itself to making that suggestion because it had been invited to examine the question; the method visualized might give good results if it was well applied.

51. The Brazilian and Australian proposals were both intended to stabilize the Organization's budget. If they were adopted and if the existing functions of the Advisory Committee were extended—and that did not entail any statutory difficulties—those proposals would enable the Advisory Committee to present a comprehensive report on co-ordination in the administrative field, and to supplement the conclusions drawn from its review of agency budgets; they would, moreover, enable the General Assembly to have a complete picture of the total administrative expenditures incurred by the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

52. The problems arising from the collection of contributions were due to delay in the payment of contributions rather than to the existence of actual arrears. In those circumstances, the Advisory Committee thought the question was essentially within the competence of the ACC. In that connexion, he recalled the terms of paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.2 & 3/100-A/C.5/457).

53. The Indian representative had raised the question of the salary scales in force in regional offices of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The Advisory Committee had already considered that question which had been carefully examined in the Fifth Committee at the General Assembly's fifth session. He did not think it desirable to take that issue up again immediately.

54. Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) wished to make it clear, for the benefit of the United Kingdom representative, that he had never intended to suggest that the Fifth Committee was in any way inferior to the other Main Committees of the General Assembly. He recalled that on the contrary the rules of procedure gave the Fifth Committee special prerogatives which limited to a certain extent the freedom of decision of the other Main Committees.

The meeting rose at 1.45 p.m.