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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AD HOC
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS TO EXAMINE THE FINANCES OF
THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Report on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit
during the period 1 July 1970-30 June 1971

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary
Questions to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit during the period from 1 July 1970 to 30 June 1971 and the report by the Secretary-General transmitting it to the General Assembly (A/C.5/1368).
2. The Advisory Committee welcomes the further improvements in consultation procedures between the Unit and other competent organs which have taken place during the current year. The Committee reviewed matters of common interest with the Unit at an informal meeting in May 1971^{1/} and looks forward to meeting with the Unit again at its session at Geneva in May 1972.
3. In particular the Advisory Committee discussed with the Unit how to ensure effective follow-up of the Inspectors' recommendations. The Secretary-General transmitted to the Unit and the Committee interim reports on the status of the implementation of recommendations made by the Inspectors in their reports on documentation (A/7576 and Corr.1 of 25 July 1969) and on the use of minutes instead of summary records (E/4802 of 17 March 1970). The Advisory Committee will refer to

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/8408 and Corr.1 and 2), paras. 63-65.

the Secretary-General's observations as necessary in its comments on the much more comprehensive study of documentation contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit before the General Assembly at its current session (A/8319 and Corr.1).

4. The Joint Inspection Unit and the Advisory Committee agreed that reporting on follow-up action taken by the organizations must not lead to a proliferation of documentation.

5. During the 12-month period covered by the present report, the procedures for the handling of the Joint Inspection Unit reports worked smoothly and no unreasonable delays were experienced in the submission of the reports and the Secretary-General's observations thereon to the competent organs. The Advisory Committee feels that consideration might now be given to reducing the volume of related documentation. For example, the Committee questions the usefulness of issuing as documents of the Economic and Social Council (E/-), for general distribution, the observations of the specialized agencies on reports of the Joint Inspection Unit which are received after the reports themselves have been considered by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Economic and Social Council. The Advisory Committee recommends that, if the Economic and Social Council agrees, circulation of agency comments be normally limited to those which can be issued in time for the discussion of the Joint Inspection Unit reports in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Council.

6. If some of the attendant documentation could be eliminated, delegations would have more time to devote to the study of the reports themselves, some of which tend to be increasing in both length and complexity.

7. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in operative paragraph 3 of resolution 2735 A (XXV) on the future of the Joint Inspection Unit, the General Assembly requested the views of the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the governing bodies of the specialized agencies concerned, the Economic and Social Council, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Advisory Committee and the Unit itself, in time to enable the Assembly to review the question of the Unit at its twenty-seventh session. The Advisory Committee trusts that the bodies concerned will take the appropriate action to ensure that their views are available to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session.