

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 54th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MUNTASSER (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993
(continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.39, as orally revised, concerning agenda item 83 (A/C.5/46/61)

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, when the General Assembly had adopted resolution 45/185 concerning the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the Advisory Committee had requested the Secretary-General to provide information concerning the Trust Fund for the Decade and the staffing requirements of the Decade secretariat, in order to ascertain that sufficient resources were available in the Trust Fund to finance the activities envisaged by the Secretary-General. To date that information had not been provided. When the Advisory Committee had taken up the statement in document A/C.5/46/61, the Advisory Committee had been informed that the requested information was contained in that statement. In view of the late submission of the statement, the Advisory Committee had decided to defer its review of the statement until its spring session in 1992, when it would examine the justification of the resources proposed by the Secretary-General to be financed from the Trust Fund and would have to be satisfied that there were sufficient funds to finance the activities specified in document A/C.5/46/61. Accordingly, no additional appropriations would be entailed by the adoption of the draft resolution. He noted that any contracts relating to the staffing of the secretariat would have to be subject to the findings of the Advisory Committee at its spring session.

2. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/46/61 and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.39, the additional activities as detailed in paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/46/61 would be included under section 30 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and that no additional financial resources would be required. Additional extrabudgetary resources in the amount of \$932,000 would, however, be required for the biennium 1992-1993 in order to implement the Decade activities. Should additional voluntary contributions not materialize, the activities proposed would have to be deferred until sufficient resources were available under the Trust Fund. He further proposed that the Fifth Committee should concur with the observations of the Advisory Committee.

3. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that he was not sure exactly what the Committee was deciding: whether to postpone its decision concerning the financial implications of the resolution, or to adopt the financial implications and to leave the examination of those implications to the Advisory Committee at its spring session in 1992.

4. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the procedure proposed by the Chairman was correct. No additional appropriations were required under the programme budget for 1992-1993. An estimated \$1,700,000 would be financed, however, from the Trust Fund for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The Advisory Committee would examine that requirement, which included the proposed staffing costs for the secretariat of the Decade, and would communicate in writing to the Secretary-General authorizing him to finance activities from the Trust Fund at the level determined by the Advisory Committee.

5. The CHAIRMAN said he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the decision in the light of the clarification provided by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

6. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.101 concerning agenda item 12 (A/C.5/46/68)

7. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, under the terms of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.101, the General Assembly would endorse the recommendations of the Committee for Development Planning regarding the inclusion of Cambodia, Solomon Islands, Zaire and Zambia in the list of least developed countries; and that estimated additional requirements of \$217,300 would arise in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, to cover the travel costs of five representatives from each Member State, one in first class and four in business class, to attend sessions of the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee had been informed that savings of \$222,300 had been made so far under that section of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. The Advisory Committee therefore believed that no additional appropriations were required and that the possibility of absorption under that section should be considered. It recommended, therefore, that the Secretary-General should indicate such additional requirements as might be necessary in the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

8. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/46/68 and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.101, no additional appropriation would be required at the current stage.

9. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.80 concerning agenda item 79 (A/C.5/46/74)

10. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.80, in terms of which the General Assembly would, inter alia, decide that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change should hold a fifth session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 18 to 28 February 1992, with the possibility of the Committee holding a short resumed session in New York in April 1992. The statement noted further that the activities proposed in the draft resolution had not been programmed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and would require the creation of new programme narratives under a new subsection 11F to finance the ad hoc secretariat during the negotiating process of the preparation and follow-up of the convention from the United Nations regular budget during 1992.

11. The financial arrangements and estimated resource requirements for the proposed activities were discussed in the statement, which noted that, by its resolution 45/212, the General Assembly had decided that the negotiating process should be funded from existing United Nations budgetary resources, without adversely affecting its programmed activities, and from voluntary contributions to a trust fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations. That resolution had been adopted without a statement of programme budget implications, and Secretariat support to the negotiating process had, accordingly, been provided through a number of ad hoc and specific arrangements, listed in paragraph 6 of the statement.

12. For the reasons listed in paragraph 14 of the statement, the estimate of \$915,500 for conference-servicing costs under section 32 would not give rise to additional appropriations under that section. The Advisory Committee noted, however, that under the terms of General Assembly resolution 40/243, United Nations bodies should meet at their respective headquarters. Since the established headquarters of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was Geneva, the holding of its sessions in New York would not only require an exception to the provisions of resolution 40/243, but, as the Advisory Committee had been informed, would entail expenditure 6 per cent higher than in Geneva.

13. The non-conference-servicing costs amounted to \$1,296,000, as proposed in paragraph 7 of the statement, with staff costs for general temporary assistance amounting to \$949,000. The Advisory Committee recommended, for those requirements, the provision of five Professional posts for 12 work-months each, one D-2, one D-1, one P-5, one P-4 and one P-3, as well as four General Service posts. The related resource requirements amounted to \$829,300. In addition, the Advisory Committee recommended that steps should be taken to ensure the full utilization of the extrabudgetary resources of all

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participating organizations, both before and after the signing of the convention in June 1992.

14. The Advisory Committee understood that activities arising out of the implementation of the convention would be covered by the administrative and financial arrangements stipulated in the convention itself.

15. In summary, he said that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.80, the proposed programme of work would be added under a new subsection 11F of the proposed programme budget and that additional expenditure under that subsection would amount to \$1,176,300, in connection with the activities of the ad hoc secretariat. That amount was to be considered in accordance with the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund.

16. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana), Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, said that, in accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A, all proposals relating to the calendar of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the Assembly should be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when administrative implications were being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure. In view of that provision, and bearing in mind that the established headquarters of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was Geneva, the holding of the fifth session and the resumed fifth session of the Committee in New York would require an exception to resolution 40/243.

17. On the basis of the information provided, including the availability of facilities for a February session at United Nations Headquarters in New York and the schedule of other intergovernmental meetings on environment and development, in particular, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Committee on Conferences recommended that the General Assembly should grant an exception to paragraph 4 of section I of resolution 40/243, thereby authorizing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change to meet away from its established headquarters.

18. Mr. SUGANO (Japan) said that his delegation took issue with the provision in the Secretary-General's statement for staffing requirements. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 45/212, the ad hoc secretariat for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was to be funded from within existing budgetary resources. He was concerned that the statement of programme budget implications made provision for 12 work-months, whereas resolution A/C.2/46/L.80 provided a mandate for 6 months only. He therefore believed that the budgetary appropriation of \$949,000 should be reduced by half. He also believed that, in accordance with established practice, any expenditure incurred in the promotion of the framework convention on climate change should be borne by the future contracting parties to the convention. Any disbursements by the General Assembly for the second half of 1992 should be

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seen essentially as an advance payment, to be reimbursed by the contracting parties. He therefore believed that no budgetary appropriations were necessary at the current stage for the second half of 1992 and that the matter should be referred to the Advisory Committee to enable it to review the arrangements that would be necessary following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

19. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) asked for confirmation that the exception granted by the Committee on Conferences enabling the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to meet away from its headquarters in Geneva would allow it to meet only in New York and not wherever it might choose. He agreed with the representative of Japan that paragraph 4 of the statement of programme budget implications was misleading, since it implied that the work of the ad hoc secretariat would be completed by June 1992, when it submitted its report, whereas provision was made in paragraph 7 for Professional staff to be retained for a full year. He asked the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee to provide clarification. If there was a problem, the Fifth Committee should defer action pending a further review of the question by the Advisory Committee, since it must be careful not to provide funding beyond the mandated requirements.

20. Mr. MORDACO (France) expressed regret that the expenses in question had not been foreseen and included in the original estimates. He noted that, according to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, costs would be 6 per cent higher in New York than in Geneva. He regretted that additional funds were being wasted in that way and hoped that the International Negotiating Committee would see fit to hold its resumed fifth session in Geneva rather than New York.

21. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had discussed the question of whether it was necessary to budget for 12 months and had reduced the number of work-months proposed by the Secretary-General for both Professional and General Service staff. Any follow-up activities arising out of the implementation of the framework convention on climate change would have to be financed in accordance with the administrative and financial arrangements laid down in the convention itself. Follow-up activities which fell within the responsibility of the Secretary-General, such as reporting to the General Assembly on the outcome of the Conference on Environment and Development, would have to be financed from the regular budget. The contracting parties could not be expected to meet such costs.

22. Mr. EAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that there would be no funding for the ad hoc secretariat after December 1991 unless the General Assembly granted the appropriation in question. Requirements had been included for all of 1992 in order to make provision for follow-up activities. Obviously, if the staff were not needed, the situation would be reviewed. If the appropriation was not approved, it would not be

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possible to give effect to the draft resolution. The only alternative was to redeploy funds from other sections of the budget.

23. Mr. SUGANO (Japan) said that he was not convinced by the Secretariat's explanation. The question concerned the basic aim of statements of programme budget implications which were supposed to describe the costs associated with the implementation of a given draft resolution. It was pointless to inquire whether funds were necessary to carry out an activity if there was no mandate for the activity in question. The necessary provision should be included in the programme budget for 1992 and not in the statement of programme budget implications for the draft resolution before the Committee.

24. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that he understood the concern expressed by the representative of Japan and proposed that the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee should be requested to keep under review the staffing requirements of the ad hoc secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the light of the activities mandated in the resolution, in order to ensure that the resources provided were sufficient, but not more than sufficient.

25. Mr. SUGANO (Japan) said that his objection related to the basic objective of statements of programme budget implications and he could not accept any proposal which was not related to the mandate given by the resolution.

26. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that the draft resolution had been orally revised to provide a mandate for activities for the whole of 1992. The planned conference was bound to give rise to follow-up activities and, although the scale of such activities might be open to question, the Secretary-General would be required to report to the General Assembly and some provision for staffing requirements must therefore be made.

27. Mr. SUGANO (Japan) said that adoption of the statement of programme budget implications would set a very unfavourable precedent, given the basic objective of such statements, since the draft resolution called for funding for six months, whereas the Secretary-General was proposing arrangements for the full year.

28. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), confirmed that the oral revision to the resolution provided a mandate for the full 12 months. Clearly, if the resources proved unnecessary after the Conference, the requirements could be reviewed, as proposed by the representative of the United States.

29. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana), Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, said that he understood the legitimate concern of the representative of Japan, who did not object to the provision of post-conference facilities as such but to the attempt to predetermine the level of the relevant staffing requirements. He suggested that they could endorse the recommendations of the Advisory

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Committee on the understanding that the post-conference staffing requirements would be reviewed by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee, as the representative of the United States had proposed.

30. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Fifth Committee, on the basis of the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/74) and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the Committee on Conferences, wished to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/46/L.80, the new activities indicated in paragraph 5 of document A/C.5/46/74 would be added under a new subsection 11F of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and that an additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,176,300 would be required under section 11 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 in connection with the activities of the ad hoc secretariat, subject to the guidelines for the use of the contingency fund. Furthermore, an exception would be granted to General Assembly resolution 40/243, so as to authorize the International Negotiating Committee to hold its fifth session in New York. The General Assembly would also be asked to request the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to keep under review the staffing requirements of the ad hoc secretariat of the International Negotiating Committee in the light of the activities mandated in the relevant resolution.

31. It was so decided.

32. Mr. SUGANO (Japan) reiterated the reservations he had expressed previously. He stressed that statements of programme budget implications should be related strictly to the mandate of the relevant resolution. In the present case, there had been a clear departure from the mandate contained in resolution A/C.2/46/L.80. The approval of the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications must not be allowed to set a precedent.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution I in document A/46/704/Add.1 concerning agenda item 94 (b) (A/C.5/46/76)

33. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee, having considered the Secretary-General's statement in document A/C.5/46/76 on the programme budget implications of draft resolution I on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, noted that the draft resolution would have the General Assembly decide to recommend (para. 10) that a commission on crime prevention and criminal justice be established as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, which would hold its inaugural meeting during 1992, and to make available the funds necessary for the work of the new commission within the budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The Secretary-General estimated the additional requirements at \$107,000, consisting of \$79,000 for travel of 40 commission members to the annual session, and \$28,000 for travel of six experts from least developed

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countries. In that connection, the Advisory Committee recalled General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, section VI, concerning procedures for administrative and budgetary matters. Recent experience underscored the need for adherence to that resolution, and the Advisory Committee believed that it might even require some strengthening.

34. In response to the request in paragraph 7 of the draft resolution that the Secretary-General take the necessary action and provide resources for the effective functioning of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme within overall United Nations resources, the Secretary-General pointed out in his statement (para. 8 (b)) that the structural, administrative and budgetary aspects of the planned restructuring of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, as well as the issues of the workload and other aspects of functioning of the Branch, would require a separate management review, and that proposals would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

35. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that an effort should be made to absorb the additional requirement of \$107,000 within the existing resources of the crime prevention and criminal justice programme under the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993, without affecting the effective functioning of that programme as mandated by the General Assembly. The Secretary-General should indicate such additional requirements as might be necessary in the first performance report for the biennium 1992-1993. The adoption of the draft resolution, therefore, would not require additional appropriations at the current stage.

36. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) asked if the Advisory Committee, in stressing the need for adherence to resolution 45/248 B, section VI, intended to make a specific proposal in that regard.

37. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee was simply trying to communicate to the Fifth Committee its concern at a tendency by the other Main Committees to make budgetary proposals that were better left to the Fifth Committee. If the members of the Fifth Committee had the same impression, they could act upon it.

38. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) said that he felt very strongly, based on the remarks of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and on the tendency evidenced in the Third Committee resolution under consideration, that the Fifth Committee should make it clear to the Main Committees that, while they should carefully examine the medium-term plan, which was within their purview, they should not deal with the budget, which was within the competence of the Fifth Committee. He therefore proposed that the Committee should adopt a resolution recalling General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, section VI; reaffirming that the Fifth Committee was the competent Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters,

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including all matters relating to regular budget financing; reaffirming the role of the Advisory Committee; expressing concern at the tendency of its substantive committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters; and inviting the Secretary-General to provide all intergovernmental bodies at an early stage in each session with the required information regarding procedures for administrative and budgetary matters.

39. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that he had no objection to recalling resolution 45/248 but that he was disturbed by the tendency of the General Assembly to create an impasse by, on the one hand, insisting that the Fifth Committee could not interfere with the substantive work of the other Main Committees and, on the other hand, insisting that the Main Committees should not in any way try to exert influence in budgetary matters. A middle road had to be found, in order to avoid a situation where anything could be proposed and nothing could be disposed of.

40. Mr. SUGANO (Japan) said that section VI of resolution 45/248 B regarding the competence of the Fifth Committee had been the result of long negotiations, and it was improper to attempt to reopen the issue under the circumstances. His delegation believed that it would be out of order for the Committee to adopt a resolution such as that proposed by the representative of Cameroon, which was not relevant to the subject under consideration, and he proposed that the Committee should move on.

41. Miss SHITAKHA (Kenya) said that her delegation had long shared the concerns expressed by Cameroon, and she fully supported its proposal which, however, she would prefer to see worded more strongly.

42. The CHAIRMAN appealed to the representative of Cameroon not to press for formal adoption of his proposal by the Committee but rather to be satisfied with having it duly reflected in the summary record.

43. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) said he would heed the Chairman's appeal.

44. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Fifth Committee, on the basis of the statement of the programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General and the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, wished to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution I in document A/46/704/Add.1, efforts should be made to absorb the requirement of \$107,000 under section 21 of the proposed programme budget and any additional expenditure should be reported to the Assembly in the first performance report. The Secretary-General would submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a revision of programme 29 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and revised estimates under section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 in relation to activities in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

45. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.67, as orally revised, concerning agenda item 94 (b) (A/C.5/46/77)

46. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee, having considered the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/46/77) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.4/46/L.67 concerning the United Nations Africa Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), noted that paragraph 2 of the draft resolution requested the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources were provided to UNAFRI within the overall appropriations of the budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to enable the Institute to carry out, in full and on time, all its mandates. In addition to the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in Rome, which had an overall mandate for research in that area, all four regional United Nations institutes on crime prevention, in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe, were financed outside the regular budget of the United Nations. In accordance with the statute of UNAFRI, its administrative and programme costs were to be financed by the assessed contributions of African States under a specific scale of assessment, while its operational activities were to be funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). However, it was clear that the situation of the Institute was precarious.

47. The Secretary-General had set out various options in paragraph 5 of his statement, explaining why approaches such as the redeployment of resources from within section 21 or section 23 or from other sections of the proposed programme budget would not be feasible; for the reasons given in paragraph 5 (c), the Secretary-General was proposing the provision of \$180,000 under section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as a grant to the Institute, to assist in covering its administrative costs for 1992. The Secretary-General also stated that he would report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the longer-term solution to the financing of UNAFRI. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the administrative costs of the Institute consisted mainly of staff costs for a P-5 and a P-3 post, and it believed that the \$180,000 would cover the core administrative support of the Institute. However, the Secretary-General also indicated (para. 6) that, given the nature of that appropriation, he was not in a position to provide an alternative in case resources were not sufficient in the contingency fund. The only possible alternative would be to defer implementation of paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.

48. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.67, an additional appropriation of \$180,000 for UNAFRI would be required under section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, subject to the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

49. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) asked why, although the General Assembly, in paragraph 2 of resolution A/C.5/46/L.67, had requested the Secretary-General

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to ensure that adequate resources were available to the Institute for the biennium 1992-1993, the Secretary-General, in his report (A/C.5/46/77), was proposing a grant for 1992 only. It appeared from information that he had just received that UNAFRI, because of a lack of funds, had been able to recruit only two of the four staff members called for in its staffing table and that one of those two had had to resign because of the same lack of funds. In the light of that information, it was clear that the grant of \$180,000 would not be enough to rescue UNAFRI from its financial difficulties. He asked whether the Secretary-General's proposal took into account the current situation of UNAFRI and what the Secretariat intended to do to maintain the Institute's financial viability in the future.

50. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said he shared the concerns regarding the Institute's financial situation expressed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 3 of his report (A/C.3/46/L.74) and by the representative of Ghana. His delegation would like to know whether the full extent of the Institute's financial difficulties had been known when the statement of programme budget implications had been prepared, whether the Advisory Committee had been informed of it and, if so, whether it had then taken into account by the Advisory Committee. His delegation also wished to know whether the Secretariat in New York had been consulted by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) before the latter had terminated the staff members concerned, and whether the Secretariat considered that the grant proposed was an adequate response to the request made by the General Assembly in paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.67.

51. Mr. ONWUALIA (Nigeria) said that he shared the concerns expressed by the representatives of Ghana and Uganda.

52. Mr. SY (Senegal) said that there seemed to be a tendency on the Secretariat's part, as indicated by the last sentence of document A/C.5/46/77, to avoid taking a decision on the matter, and asked whether the Secretariat thought it could find a solution to the problem.

53. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation would not oppose the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, but was concerned that, despite the language of the Third Committee's draft resolution, an additional appropriation was being requested. He emphasized that that concern was not political but technical.

54. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), replying to the requests for clarification addressed to the Secretariat, recalled that under the statute of UNAFRI, the Institute's administrative and programme costs were to be financed by voluntary contributions from countries of the region, as was the case with all the United Nations regional institutes on crime prevention. The Secretariat had been aware, when drawing up the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/46/77), that the Institute's situation was precarious, although it had not had complete information on the matter.

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It had, further, interpreted the phrase in paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.67, "within the overall budget" as meaning within the overall appropriation as decided on by the Fifth Committee rather than within the original estimates submitted by the Secretary-General. It had therefore decided, as a matter of prudence, to propose an appropriation of \$180,000, on the understanding that the Secretary-General would look into the long-term prospects of the Institute and report on them to the General Assembly at its next session. That appropriation would make possible the financing of two posts, at the P-5 and P-3 level, while leaving a limited additional amount for administrative expenses. If the General Assembly accepted the proposal, the situation of the Institute's core staff would thus be secure for 1992.

55. The question of UNAFRI was a part of the overall problem of financing autonomous institutes. In the Secretariat's view, it could not be assumed that the financing of such institutes was a normal part of the Organization's budget; in the case of UNAFRI, therefore, the Secretary-General's proposal had been intended as an ad hoc measure to assist in covering administrative costs for one year, while making provision for a report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on a long-term solution to the problem of the Institute.

56. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said that coordination between the ECA secretariat and the Secretariat in New York seemed to be inadequate and pointed out that the statute of UNAFRI had been amended in 1991 to allow for the funding from the assessed contributions of ECA member States. Paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/46/77) was irrelevant, as the programme budget proposal did not refer to all the regional United Nations institutes on crime prevention but rather only to UNAFRI.

57. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) proposed that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should the draft resolution be adopted, an additional appropriation of \$180,000 would be required under section 23 of the proposed programme budget. The Assembly should also request the Secretary-General to keep the situation of UNAFRI under review and to submit a report on the matter to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session, together with proposals which would make it possible to implement paragraph 2 of the resolution.

58. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) proposed that the Committee should also ask the Secretary-General not only to keep the Institute's situation under active review but to bring the matter to the attention of the Advisory Committee if that situation worsened.

59. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation had some difficulties with the proposal by the representative of Cameroon but was prepared to accept it in the interest of compromise. It could not, however, accept the additional proposal by the Ugandan representative, which would allow the Secretary-General to commit the Organization to substantial expenditure without consulting the Fifth Committee. On the other hand, the

(Mr. Michalski, United States)

Committee might add a request to the Secretary-General to consult with the Administrator of UNDP to determine whether UNDP could increase the level of its support for UNAFRI.

60. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) agreed that the Secretary-General should be encouraged to approach UNDP; however, he would prefer the retention of his own proposal.

61. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the matter should be referred to informal consultations and taken up again by the Committee later.

62. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 19 (A/C.5/46/80)

63. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee was recommending that every effort should be made to absorb the amount of \$55,000 requested by the Secretary-General. If necessary the matter could be dealt with in the performance report. Adoption of the draft resolution would entail no additional appropriations at the current stage.

64. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Fifth Committee, on the basis of the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General and the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, wished to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/46/L.22/Rev.1, no additional provision would be required.

65. It was so decided.

66. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) said that it was not clear to her delegation from the decision just adopted whether the additional provision of \$55,000 would be made available or not.

67. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the decision meant that any additional appropriation would be considered in the context of the performance report for the biennium 1992-1993, and that at the current stage the Fifth Committee was not appropriating the \$55,000 requested.

68. Mrs. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) said that the Committee had acted somewhat hastily in adopting its decision, since her delegation had wished to speak on the matter before the decision was adopted. In the circumstances her delegation would raise the matter again in the context of the performance report.

69. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) noted that the amount of \$55,000 related to information kits and upgraded photo exhibits on decolonization. He trusted that the items would indeed be produced and be available for viewing by his delegation.

Revised estimates under section 32D (Conference and library services, Vienna)
(A/46/7/Add.15; A/C.5/46/30 and Add.1 and Add.2)

70. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that since the revised estimates had been submitted late, the Advisory Committee was making only an interim recommendation to the effect that the initial estimate for conference and library services in Vienna as contained in the proposed programme budget, namely \$32,672,800, should be approved, subject to a thorough review by the Advisory Committee of all questions relating to Vienna, on which it would report at the forty-seventh session. Subsequent to the Advisory Committee's approval of its sixteenth report, it had received a request from the Controller regarding the revised estimates before the Committee.

71. In making its recommendation, the Advisory Committee wished to emphasize that the 1993 portion of the appropriation should be regarded as provisional, and that requirements for 1993 and any related proposals for new posts would be discussed by the Committee in its review of conference-servicing arrangements in Vienna, taking account of any developments in the consultations between the United Nations and UNIDO.

72. The Advisory Committee had noted that the Secretary-General's original estimates had not contained the provisions needed to give effect to the agreement between the Organization and IAEA concerning interpretation services. Given that IAEA had agreed to transfer its interpretation staff to the United Nations with effect from 1 January 1992, and that the IAEA budget thus contained no provision for interpretation services in 1992, the Advisory Committee was recommending that the estimate of \$32,672,800 should be increased by an amount of \$803,800, and that the three P-4 interpretation posts in question should be approved. The estimates under income section 2 would be increased by the same amount to reflect reimbursement by IAEA of the cost of interpretation services.

73. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/30) and to endorse the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in its report (A/46/7/Add.15, paras. 8-10), as orally amended by the Chairman of ACABQ. He would also take it that the Fifth Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly approval of an appropriation in the amount of \$33,476,600 under section 32D of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, comprising \$32,672,800 as proposed by the Secretary-General in the initial proposal of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and an additional appropriation of \$803,800 relating to requirements for the establishment of a common interpretation service as agreed to by IAEA, to be offset by an increase of \$803,800 in the estimates of income under income section 2 (General income). He would further take it that the Fifth Committee wished to recommend approval of an additional amount of \$108,600 under section 36, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1.

74. It was so decided.

75. Mr. KARBUCZKY (Hungary) said that his delegation was concerned by the underbudgeting for conference services in Vienna, and trusted that the situation would be rectified in future bienniums. The parties concerned should reach agreement on the question of a unified conference-servicing operation in Vienna in the interests of Member States.

Offices of the Secretary-General in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq
(A/46/7/Add.16; A/C.5/46/64)

76. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, in 1991, the Advisory Committee had concurred with the Secretary-General's proposal to enter into commitments up to \$3 million through December 1991 in connection with the offices of the Secretary-General in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in Iraq. In paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/46/7/Add.16), the Secretary-General indicated that the estimated expenditure on the offices for April to December 1991 would be \$3,015,000. In paragraph 10 of the report, the Secretary-General was requesting the appropriation of an additional amount of \$4,170,100 under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993, together with an additional appropriation of \$325,400 under section 36, offset by the same amount under income section 1. The Advisory Committee concurred in the request for those additional appropriations.

77. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/64) and endorse the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee. The requirements for 1991 amounting to \$3,015,000 would be reflected in the second performance report on the programme budget for 1990-1991 and an additional amount of \$4,170,100 would be appropriated under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993, together with an additional appropriation of \$325,400 under section 36, offset by the same amount under income section 1. The related requirements should be dealt with without recourse to the contingency fund.

78. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) proposed that the Fifth Committee should also recommend that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the review he would carry out in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/46/7/Add.16) to the General Assembly and the Security Council when the Secretary-General has an occasion to report on the work of his offices in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in Iraq.

79. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the decision he had just read out, as amended by the representative of Japan.

80. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 106: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

Programme budget performance report (A/C.5/46/46)

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993
(continued)

Revised estimates under income section 3 (A/C.5/46/79)

81. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the scope of the report was financial only, and that it would be supplemented by a report on programme implementation, to be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-second session and the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

82. The Advisory Committee had noted that, taking into account actual expenditure and income recorded at the time of preparation of the performance report, projected expenditure for the biennium 1990-1991 was \$1,781,185,400 on a net basis (\$2,181,841,600 gross), compared with a net amount of \$1,752,318,300 (\$2,134,072,100 gross) voted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/252. On that basis there would be a net increase of \$28,867,100, resulting from an increase of \$47,769,500 under expenditure sections, partly offset by an increase of \$18,902,400 under the income sections.

83. The projected increase in revenue of \$18,902,400 reflected increases under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment) and increases in respect of revenue-producing activities under income section 3 (Services to the public), while a decrease under income section 2 (General income) had also been projected. The net increase under income section 3 was the result of increased revenue in the United Nations Postal Administration and the sale of publications, partly offset by an additional expenditure of \$3.1 million, representing the cost of the first phase of a project for the renovation of the General Assembly First Basement Concourse. In that connection the Advisory Committee had concurred in the Secretary-General's entering into commitments of up to \$3.1 million.

84. The increase of \$47,769,500 in expenditure requirements was broken down in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/46/46) by major factor: rates of exchange, inflation, decisions of policy-making organs, and other changes. Paragraph 4 provided a breakdown by object of expenditure, the most substantial item being salaries and other staff costs, partly offset by decreases under printing and general operating expenses.

85. The performance report indicated additional requirements of \$5.9 million relating to decisions of policy-making organs. The Advisory Committee noted that an amount of \$420,000 had been recorded in respect of interorganizational security measures. General Assembly resolution 44/203 provided that the Secretary-General was authorized to enter into commitments for interorganizational security measures in an amount not exceeding \$300,000,

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above which the concurrence of the Advisory Committee must be sought. In view of the recent pattern of expenditure, the Advisory Committee recommended that that level should be raised to \$500,000 in the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1992-1993.

86. The Secretary-General had indicated a projected decrease of \$10,091,700 relating to more favourable exchange rates for the dollar in 1991, an amount which had been entirely offset by higher-than-anticipated inflation. The rates of common staff costs projected through the end of the biennium were the same as those that would be used for the biennium 1992-1993. The amount of \$41,735,100 recorded under other changes in paragraph 5 of the performance report included an amount of \$20 million for a projected increase in staff assessment, a large part of which related to recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) relating to staff assessment approved at the forty-fifty session, as adjusted for the rate of exchange. The overall increase under "other changes" was also attributable to higher costs for Field Service posts, to costs incurred in connection with the evacuation of staff at ECA and ESCWA, and to the shortfall projected for the cost of after-service health insurance coverage.

87. The Advisory Committee's consideration of the performance report had been greatly hampered by the late submission of the report and the absence of the supporting addenda. The Secretary-General's representatives, while recognizing the need to obtain an appropriation in respect of the additional requirements, had indicated that a more precise and accurate indication of actual requirements could be achieved, given additional time. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee was recommending that, at the current stage, the General Assembly should appropriate a net amount of \$15 million and that it should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the remaining \$13,867,100, subject to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee. The actual level of commitments would depend on the Committee's review of additional information justifying any such commitment. The Assembly could then appropriate the necessary amounts ex post facto. Under such an approach the Secretariat would not be deprived of resources if they were justified, while appropriations that might ultimately prove unrealistic would not be made.

88. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation had some doubts concerning the changes indicated in the performance report. Specifically, it was not clear how the figure of \$20 million relating to a projected increase in staff assessment had been calculated. Equally, the reference in the performance report to an increase in the average annual base salary for Field Service posts from \$22,000 in 1989 to \$32,100 in 1991, as well as the increase in post adjustment from \$7,800 in 1989 to \$10,200 in 1991, seemed large and should be explained.

89. Regarding the project for the renovation of the General Assembly First Basement Concourse, he asked how many phases were planned and what the final

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cost would be. Commenting on the increase for General Service staff at Geneva referred to in schedule 4 of the performance report, he asked what the dollar value of that increase would be.

90. He noted that the total increase in the budget for the biennium 1990-1991 would be \$15 million, rather than \$28.9 million as requested by the Secretary-General. His delegation wished to be provided with a breakdown of the increases in expenditure and income, since that would affect his Government's assessed contribution for 1992. Lastly, he wished to know when the addenda to the performance report would be available.

91. Mr. MORDACQ (France) said that under the current budget methodology the Committee was called upon to consider in the context of the performance report expenditures above and beyond those contained in the programme budget for the biennium which were not covered by the contingency fund. Given the size of the increases a review of the methodology should be contemplated. Paragraph 11 of the performance report indicated that various reductions in the estimated requirements reported on in the first performance report for the biennium 1990-1991 could not be absorbed. The report went on to indicate that related additional requirements had now been reported. In that connection his delegation was somewhat concerned by the apparent negation of the will of the General Assembly, and particularly by the increases in respect of temporary assistance for meetings and travel. Further, his delegation could not reconcile the fact that Services to visitors was running a deficit with the proposal to spend some \$3.1 million on the First Basement Concourse, which related to that same area of activity. He asked whether the construction in the first basement should not in fact be under section 35 of the proposed programme budget.

92. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) noted that the total net requirements would not be assessed on Member States but that, for the unassessed amount of roughly \$14.9 million, the Secretary-General would enter into commitment subject to the concurrence of the Advisory Committee. His delegation hoped that no additional appropriations would be proposed by the Advisory Committee when the final statement of accounts for the biennium 1990-1991 was issued. It was his delegation's understanding that that would occur only in the event of need and that such additional appropriations would be recommended by the Advisory Committee to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly. His delegation hoped that the fulfilment of obligations would yield a surplus that would make additional requirements unnecessary. However, should that not be the case, it would appreciate information at the earliest possible date on when it would be notified of any possible additional assessment.

93. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), replying to the representative of the United States, said that the increase in the General Service salaries at Geneva reflected an increase of \$4.9 million corresponding to inflation and a decrease of \$1.9 million corresponding to exchange rates. ICSC had agreed at the forty-fourth session of the General

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Assembly on a 5 per cent increase in the net compensation of Field Service staff, and on an increase in mobility and hardship allowances. The increase also reflected inflation at certain duty stations where Field Service staff were located. At the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, ICSC had adopted a new salary scale for the same Field Service staff, which had become effective in 1991.

94. Replying to the representatives of the United States and France, he said that the cost of the second phase of the renovation of the General Assembly First Basement Concourse was estimated at \$2.4 million, and that the second phase was expected to be the final phase. The total cost would therefore be the amount mentioned in the budget performance report plus an additional \$2.4 million.

95. Replying to the representative of France, he said that, while it was true that subprogramme 4 (services to visitors) was running a deficit, it accounted for only a small percentage of the total revenue included under income section 3. The estimated net revenue for the biennium 1990-1991 had been \$6.9 million. That revenue would be revised upward by perhaps as much as \$6 million, chiefly as a result of revenue earned from the sale of postage stamps by the United Nations Postal Administration. In the light of the upward revision, the Advisory Committee had approved a departure from the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations so that the proposed renovation could be financed from the additional revenue as a non-recurring expenditure. That also explained why the figure for estimated revenue contained in the report was approximately \$3 million less than what it should normally be. Replying to another question by the representative of France, he said that the gap between the revised and final estimates for salary and wages was not attributable to an unauthorized salary and wage increase, but rather to budget methodology.

96. Referring to paragraph 11, he said that the decisions taken in 1990 had been carefully arrived at but had been based on estimates; as a result the increase had become apparent only recently. In both 1990 and 1989, the Fifth Committee had also objected to being forced to deal with issues very rapidly. However, the current budget methodology and Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations made it difficult for the Secretariat to submit documentation to the Committee earlier in the session.

97. Replying to the representative of Japan, he said that a final estimate would be submitted to the Advisory Committee once sufficient data on all duty stations became available. The General Assembly would indeed be required to take a decision, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, before an additional assessment could be made on Member States.

98. Mr. MORDACQ (France) said that clarification was still required on how \$3 million in additional revenue could be applied to capital expenditures under section 35. Capital expenditures were not supposed to be financed from additional revenue, the special account or from services to visitors and

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publications. That would constitute a grave violation of the general rule that revenue must not be earmarked for specific expenditures. It was also extremely surprising that a capital expenditure of \$3 million should be made when no decision had been taken by the General Assembly. Often a considerable amount of time was devoted to discussing the expenditure of much smaller amounts, including expenditures on new technology. In its decision, the Fifth Committee should stress the need to respect the Financial Regulations and Rules and to record expenditure under the proper section of the budget.

99. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that it was his delegation's understanding that the Committee would have information on the revised expenditures, income and net requirements recommended by the Advisory Committee when it took a decision on revised appropriations. His delegation wondered whether information on additional assessments - should they become necessary - would be transmitted to Member States early in 1992, or at the time the assessment for 1993 was made. His delegation agreed with the remarks by the French representative concerning renovation of the First Basement Concourse. While the renovation project appeared to be self-financing, in fact, it would be indirectly financed from Member States' assessments, which additional revenues under income section 3 were supposed to reduce. His delegation also agreed with the French representative that it was unusual to expect the Committee to decide on a renovation costing \$3 million on the basis of no more than a brief reference in a document submitted very late in the Assembly. While the renovation might be a small item in the overall budget, the amount of \$5 million was significant.

100. Mr. RAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the final appropriations for 1991 would be presented by section with a column showing any increase or decrease, as the case might be. The Secretariat would indicate a specific assessment reflecting the difference between the current appropriations and the final appropriation after they had been reviewed by the Advisory Committee. He acknowledged that the Committee would have very little time in which to consider the report on the proposed renovation. While, technically, the representative of France was correct, the renovation project had been included under income section 3 because it was viewed as a source of future revenue, which, as such, should be financed from surplus revenue. A detailed report on the project, particularly on the financing of \$2.4 million for phase II, would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

101. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation shared many of the concerns expressed by other delegations. The problem was largely attributable to methodology, rather than the Secretariat, but improved information management within the Secretariat would help matters considerably. Drawing attention to paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of General Assembly resolution 43/214, he noted that, at the time the resolution was adopted, a proposal had been made by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee had recommended deferring action. Perhaps the General Assembly should take note of those paragraphs of

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the resolution and the Advisory Committee should be requested to resume consideration of a reserve and report to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

102. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that, in the absence of any information, the General Assembly could propose deferring the renovation project. It was to be hoped that, at the very least, a report would be submitted on how the \$5.5 million project would be implemented. The Fifth Committee could consider the report at its resumed session.

103. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) noted that the report had been considered by the Advisory Committee only days earlier and he did not know when it would be submitted to the Fifth Committee. It was also not clear when a report by the Advisory Committee would be available.

104. Mr. MORDACQ (France) asked whether work on the project had already begun. If not, it should not be discussed in the context of the 1990-1991 budget, but rather in the context of capital expenditure at the forty-seventh session.

105. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon), referring to the summary of projected expenditure performance variances for the biennium 1990-1991 by section and by main object of expenditure contained in annex II (A/C.5/46/46), noted total increases of over \$1 million in sections 1, 2B, 11, 13, 14, 21, 23, 25, 27 and 28. Section 28, in particular, which showed an increase of over \$6 million, demanded an explanation. The situation seemed to point to a need for tighter control so that such expenditures could be avoided.

106. Caution should be exercised with regard to the proposal by the United Kingdom on a reserve, as it dealt with an aspect of budgeting which was extremely difficult to control. Perhaps certain parameters, such as exchange rates, or unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, should continue to remain outside the scope of the budget process. The proposal by the United Kingdom might be explored in the seminar on budget methodology. For the time being, his delegation would hesitate to endorse the proposal.

107. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) urged delegations to take a decision on the 1991 programme budget in the interest of time. He agreed with the representative of Cameroon on the need for tighter control. He could not yet provide details on various sections, but that information would be forthcoming. The reasons for the overexpenditure were not all interrelated, owing to the current budget procedures.

108. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) expressed surprise that the Secretariat would submit such a frivolous proposal so late in the session when the Committee would have no time to consider it and still had to take action on a number of important matters, including peace-keeping operations. If the Secretariat wished, the question could be taken up at the resumed session.

109. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) agreed. In the interest of time, it might be preferable for the Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management to address the Committee rather than submit a document.

110. Mr. FORAN (Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that the proposal on the complete renovation of the General Assembly First Basement Concourse was the result of a comprehensive engineering, architectural and marketing survey made by consultants engaged in similar projects at a number of New York City museums and art galleries. The purpose of the renovation was to make the concourse area more marketable and to upgrade the sales areas, particularly the bookstore and Gift Centre. The stamp counter of the United Nations Postal Administration in the Concourse area should be remodeled in order to attract philatelists as well as tourists, since philatelic sales were a major source of income to the Organization.

111. The project could be financed from revenues that exceeded the approved net revenues for the current biennium. It would be in the long-term interest of the Organization to proceed with the project as soon as possible, since any delay would diminish revenues. Work should commence immediately following the conclusion of the General Assembly or, at the latest, in February. Ad hoc arrangements would be made to set up a gift centre in the General Assembly Public Lobby. In order to facilitate the preparation of the documents to be submitted to the General Assembly, he urged the Committee to take a decision on the proposal at the current meeting.

112. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/79) in which he submitted revised estimates under income section 3. In paragraph 1 of the report, the Secretary-General recalled that the Advisory Committee had agreed to his proposal regarding the renovation of the General Assembly First Basement Concourse, the first phase of which would be financed from projected additional revenues in 1990-1991. In making the proposal, the Secretary-General had also informed the Advisory Committee that the balance of the estimated total cost would be financed from the projected additional revenues under income section 3 in the biennium 1992-1993. The Advisory Committee had concurred in the project on the understanding that a phased approach to the project would be adopted so that if the balance of the required funds, estimated at \$2,433,000, did not materialize as forecast, the project could be modified so as to be completed within available funds. The Advisory Committee had also agreed that the Secretary-General should submit revised estimates under income section 3 to reflect the additional projected revenues.

113. As indicated in paragraph 14 and shown in annex II to the report, the Secretary-General estimated net revenues under income section 3 at \$10,778,200 for 1992-1993; that was \$3,400,000 more than the estimate contained in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993. As indicated, the Secretary-General proposed to charge the additional expenditure of \$2,433,000 representing the

(Mr. Mselle)

cost of phase II of the project against that amount. Consequently, the revised net revenue of \$10,778,200 would be adjusted downwards to \$8,345,200.

114. On the basis of the information available to it, the Advisory Committee concurred with the Secretary-General's inclusion of the expenditure of \$2,433,000 in income section 3 and recommended approval of his revised estimates under income section 3. The Advisory Committee noted that, as indicated in paragraph 11 of the report, the second phase of the project would be initiated when sufficient funds were available in 1992-1993. The Advisory Committee hoped that, based on income projections, it would be possible to initiate that phase immediately following the completion of phase I so as to ensure that the entire project was completed by the end of 1992, without further cost to the Organization. The Advisory Committee also noted that, during the construction period, the sales facilities would be relocated to the General Assembly Public Lobby.

115. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) said that the Fifth Committee should proceed with its consideration of the extremely important matters it had before it and postpone consideration of the embellishment of the General Assembly First Basement Concourse. That project, which would swallow up resources that could be used for more urgent purposes, could be deferred until the following year. It was ironic that millions of dollars had been found for the prettification of a basement when sufficient resources had not been found to address life-or-death situations.

116. Mr. COHEN (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the statement made by the representative of Cameroon. The Fifth Committee should defer action on the proposal to a later stage.

117. Mr. MORDACQ (France) said that the Committee had much more important issues to consider than the renovation of the First Basement Concourse. That matter should be deferred until the resumed session or the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

118. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to recommend that the General Assembly appropriate, at the current stage, a net amount of \$15 million and authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the remaining \$13,867,100, subject to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, and that the Assembly endorse the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

119. He would also take it that the Committee wished to adopt the United Kingdom proposal that the Fifth Committee should recommend that the General Assembly recall operative paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of its resolution 43/214 on the need for a comprehensive and satisfactory solution to the problem of controlling the effects of inflation and currency fluctuation on the budget of the United Nations, and request the Advisory Committee to resume consideration of the issue and report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

(The Chairman)

120. Finally, he would take it that the Fifth Committee decided to defer action on the proposed renovation of the General Assembly First Basement Concourse until a later stage.

121. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon), referring to the proposal of the representative of the United Kingdom, said that the General Assembly had indicated that, in the meantime, the procedure for dealing with inflation and fluctuations in the rate of exchange would remain in place, and he requested that that information should be included in the Fifth Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly.

122. Mr. DUHALT (Mexico) said that his delegation had no objection to deferring action on the renovation of the General Assembly First Basement Concourse. However, he wished to point out that the renovation project would not be carried out purely for the sake of embellishing the Concourse, as some delegations had claimed. The project would significantly increase the Organization's income and enhance its image with the public.

123. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the decision he had just outlined, as orally amended by the representative of Cameroon.

124. It was so decided.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.67, as orally revised, concerning agenda item 94 (b) (continued) (A/C.5/46/77)

125. The CHAIRMAN announced that a consensus had been reached on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.67, as orally revised. Accordingly, he would take it that the Fifth Committee, on the basis of the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/46/77) and the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, wished to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.67, as orally revised, it should accept the proposal by the Secretary-General on the United Nations Africa Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) supported by ACABQ; request the Secretary-General to keep the situation under active review and report no later than the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly; and urge the United Nations Development Programme to increase its funding for the programme of the Institute. Any additional requirements would be provided for, on an exceptional basis, subject to the concurrence of ACABQ and financed through overall redeployment within the level of the appropriations for the biennium 1992-1993, taking into account the views expressed by the members of the Fifth Committee.

126. It was so decided.

127. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands), speaking in explanation of position on behalf of the States Members of the European Community, said that the Twelve had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.67 in the Third Committee and, in a spirit of compromise, had not opposed the adoption by consensus of the decision on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution. Nevertheless, they felt that the proper procedures had not been followed. UNAFRI and institutions like it should be financed solely through voluntary contributions. It would be preferable, therefore, if the expenses under that item were not covered through the regular budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Several member States of the European Community intended to provide specific assistance on a voluntary basis to the Institute to help set up the necessary structure for policy development and training facilities in the African region.

128. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that his delegation had not been consulted prior to the decision just taken by the Committee and had serious misgivings about it. It was dangerous to make such an open-ended commitment subject to the concurrence of ACABQ and it would be unfair to ask the Advisory Committee to take on such an onerous task. The decision involved an open-ended commitment on the part of the United Nations to utilize resources from the regular budget to finance the Institute, which should essentially be funded by voluntary contributions from countries associated with its work. He deeply regretted that the decision had been taken in such haste and hoped that the Advisory Committee would fully take account of his delegation's views when it considered the matter in the future.

129. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said that his delegation welcomed the decision just taken by the Committee and hoped that the expressed readiness of certain countries to support the Institute would lead to tangible results. The financing arrangements for UNAFRI did not constitute a precedent since a similar institute in Asia had received funding from the regular budget in the 1970s until a number of Governments had taken over its financing. He therefore hoped that the Institute would receive such assistance from Governments and would not depend heavily on the regular budget in the future.

The meeting rose at 8.40 p.m.