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 MEETING**

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Chairman: Mr. Vahap AŞIROĞLU (Turkey).

AGENDA ITEM 74

Budget estimates for the financial year 1967 (continued) (A/6305, A/6307, A/6385, A/6457, A/C.5/1054, A/C.5/1055 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1056 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1060, A/C.5/1062, A/C.5/1065, A/C.5/1066, A/C.5/1074-1076, A/C.5/L.868, A/C.5/L.871)

General discussion (continued)

1. Mr. TODOROV (Bulgaria) said that 1966 had been a fruitful year for the review of certain important questions relating, *inter alia*, to budget preparation, presentation and performance, long-term planning, and programme co-ordination and evaluation. Mention should be made of the useful work done by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, whose reports were of great help when considering the budget estimates. In addition, the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained many important and concrete suggestions and ideas. The Special Committee on Co-ordination of the Economic and Social Council and ACC had also given serious attention to those problems. All that work would make the task of the Fifth Committee easier, as would the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the committees he had mentioned and the new annex I to the budget estimates.
2. In connexion with the budget estimates for the financial year 1967 (A/6305), his delegation shared the concern of many others at the constant increase of the budget, and it was of the opinion that every effort must be made to offset that trend by economies and improvements in administration. The General Assembly and the other organs of the United Nations should keep the programmes under constant review with the aim of discontinuing any project which was no longer of prime significance and necessity.
3. The United Nations should uphold two basic budgetary principles: first, detailed classification of expenditure and revenue and, secondly, the division of powers between the organ voting the budget and the

organ administering it. A clear distinction should be made between those parts of the budget document which were included purely for information and those parts which were subject to a vote and accordingly became binding on the Secretary-General. In that regard, the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts noted (A/6343, para. 19) that the budget once approved allowed the administrative organs too much latitude, and that still further latitude was often given by practices which had been introduced at the execution stage. The Advisory Committee had observed (A/6452, para. 8) that in certain cases programme changes had resulted in within-section transfers for entirely unrelated objects of expenditure having no identity with the programmes for which the funds had been appropriated by the General Assembly. His delegation was glad to learn that the Advisory Committee considered that that constituted a problem to which it intended to devote further study.

4. There was in the budget estimates for the financial year 1967 an information annex which was presented for the first time and in which the appropriations requested were distributed by main activity and programme and by object of expenditure. The annex was certainly very useful, but additional comparative data were needed, in each of the main fields of activity, on permanent staff, temporary staff, travel and transport, purchases of supplies and equipment, contractual services, and so forth. It would then be easier to distinguish between expenditure for administrative purposes and expenditure for operational activities, and the task of the Fifth Committee would be facilitated.
5. The General Assembly might assist the Secretary-General by adopting a voting procedure which would restrict to some extent the transfer of appropriations from one section or chapter to another, particularly in cases where large sums were involved. It might also institute a more flexible day-to-day control over the administration of the budget.
6. In view of the fact that a precedent already existed, it was to be hoped that the Secretariat would abandon the practice of creating new posts and increasing its staff when a new programme of activity was to be undertaken.
7. Since economies were necessary, another question was whether the United Nations purchased the materials, supplies and equipment it needed at the most favourable prices and markets. Perhaps it would be interesting to have an information table showing from which countries and for what total sum purchases were made and what percentage of the total expenditure was represented by any direct or indirect taxes paid on the purchases. In that regard, his delegation fully supported the comments made by the representa-

tive of Poland at the 1135th meeting of the Committee and would remind members of the Committee of the statement by the Legal Counsel on 20 November 1959^{1/} on United Nations exemption from direct and indirect taxes and duties. His delegation wanted to know the current situation.

8. He would like to know whether the Secretariat was in a position to give information concerning the sum paid by the United Nations for taxes and duties when purchasing goods and equipment or when using services for the discharge of its own tasks and programmes. He asked whether it would be possible to calculate what percentage of the amount expended such taxes represented. It would be desirable for the General Assembly to have the necessary data on that point at the current or the twenty-second session. Having in mind that the total expenditures for the above-mentioned needs were perhaps more than \$20 million, the percentage represented by taxes and duties could constitute a considerable sum which could reduce the expenses of the United Nations.

9. The Organization's budget could be reduced if the appropriation for programmes and actions incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, such as the maintenance of the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, under section 12 (Special expenses), the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, under section 16 (Special missions), and section 17 (United Nations Field Service), were excluded from it.

10. Ten delegations, including his own, had requested the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an item entitled "Withdrawal of all United States and other foreign troops occupying South Korea and the dissolution of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea" (agenda item 93). The problem of establishing a unified, democratic and peace-loving Korea remained unsolved. The United Nations had spent considerable amounts of money to finance the activities of a commission which served the policy of perpetuating the division of Korea. Those were some of the reasons for his delegation's opposition to the relevant appropriations in the 1967 budget.

11. The Bulgarian delegation was of the opinion that it should be possible to reduce the number of meetings and documents through the establishment of strict financial limitations and an order of priorities.

12. His delegation shared the concern expressed by the Ukrainian delegation (1131st meeting) on the question of public information activities. The situation in that area had not improved and the expenses for such activities were increasing continuously and without any justification. Perhaps it would be useful for the Fifth Committee to have before it a list of the activities carried out in the course of a given year, specifying the kind and the value of those activities and showing in which parts of the world they were carried out, which countries received information on United Nations activities, and what kind of activities such information related to.

13. His delegation shared the apprehensions expressed by the representative of Saudi Arabia (1127th meeting) concerning the proposal for the extension of the Headquarters in New York; it believed that it would be wise not to take a decision on the matter at the current session, and it supported the appeal which had been made to the Secretariat to withdraw its proposal.

14. Finally, he stressed that the Fifth Committee should lend the Advisory Committee more active support in its examination of the Secretariat's administrative and budgetary activities and, at the same time, should be more critical of the Advisory Committee and of the budget estimates. That would assist both the Secretariat and the Member States and would contribute to the realization of economies in the implementation of programmes and to the achievement of maximum effectiveness at the least expense.

15. Mr. BEREKET (Turkey) said that although the financial difficulties of the United Nations remained unchanged and the large deficit of past years continued to be a source of concern, his delegation was optimistic.

16. In the first place, it must not be forgotten that the United Nations was in a process of constant development, with the increasingly numerous and more complex problems that that entailed for the Organization. The growth of expenditure was a factor which had to be accepted if the United Nations was to carry out the responsibilities assigned to it. From 1962 to 1966 the budget had risen from \$82 million to \$121 million—an increase of almost one third. Revenue, unfortunately, was not rising at the same rate; the gap between revenue and expenditure which had been \$68 million in 1962, had reached a figure of \$101.5 million in 1966.

17. The efforts which had been made to find a solution to that alarming situation were beginning to bear fruit; thus, the financial year 1966 would show a surplus of \$225,890. The Advisory Committee also believed (A/6452, para. 23) that reductions might be possible in other areas, and had therefore urged the Secretary-General to apply the strictest controls on expenditures for the balance of the year. If the General Assembly accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendations, as the Turkish delegation hoped it would, the appropriations for the financial year 1966 would be reduced by about \$415,000. The Turkish Government wished to take the opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for the constant efforts he was making to reconcile the multiplication of needs with the volume of resources available.

18. However, it was the duty of Member States to support the Secretary-General in his efforts by conforming strictly to the General Assembly's decisions and ensuring co-ordination between the various United Nations organs which took decisions relating to conferences and meetings. That would to some extent facilitate the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2116 (XX). The General Assembly would be well advised to study the problem of the continual increase in the number of conferences and meetings, and the appointment of a committee on the programme

^{1/} Document A/C.5/804 (mimeographed). For summary, see *Official Reports of the General Assembly, Fourteenth Session, Fifth Committee, 748th meeting, paras. 5-8.*

of meetings would undoubtedly be useful in that respect.

19. The establishment of an order of priority for carrying out the recommendations of the various United Nations organs would do a great deal to resolve the existing financial difficulties by helping to identify the most efficient means of utilizing available resources. The General Assembly should study carefully the proposals made on that subject by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts, the Special Committee on Co-ordination of the Economic and Social Council and the Advisory Committee.

20. The Turkish delegation approved the Ad Hoc Committee's second report (A/6343) and endorsed the recommendations made in it. Turkey had joined the sponsors of resolution A/C.5/L.873 and Add.1 and 2, which the Fifth Committee had adopted at its 1135th meeting, and wished to congratulate the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee and his colleagues most sincerely. The Turkish delegation noted with satisfaction the Secretary-General's assurance that the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations would be carried out without delay as soon as the General Assembly had approved them.

21. He wished in conclusion to emphasize that despite its economic and financial difficulties Turkey had always carried out its obligations towards the United Nations.

22. Mr. MORALES QUEVEDO (Cuba) said he could not agree with delegations which, referring to the position taken by the African group—during the discussion of agenda item 73 (Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1967)—with regard to the additional expenditure for the International Court of Justice, had expressed the view that the Fifth Committee's competence embraced only administrative and budgetary questions. He felt on the contrary that every decision the Committee had to take had broad political implications, and that it was impossible to dissociate the political from the economic aspects of the questions it dealt with. The very foundations of the United Nations were being shaken by the criminal war being waged by the Yankee imperialists, using the most modern armaments and the most barbarous methods, against the courageous people of Viet-Nam.

23. The Ad Hoc Committee of Experts had done excellent work and had formulated recommendations which the Cuban delegation thought extremely useful, even though they might not be as fully effective as was desirable. The Cuban delegation had already emphasized on several occasions that the United Nations budget was not subjected to rigorous financial control; year by year it showed increases which were not due to purely economic considerations.

24. It was important that there should be greater co-ordination of United Nations activities, if duplication was to be prevented and available resources used more efficiently.

25. The causes of the financial crisis were to be sought in the special accounts for the so-called peace-keeping operations. The expenditure incurred for those operations was the outcome of illegal decisions taken by the General Assembly, and the

Cuban delegation wished to repeat that it would bear no share of such expenditure. The responsibility for meeting costs arising from illegal military operations and for helping the United Nations to overcome its financial difficulties rested with the colonialist and neo-colonialist Powers.

26. The substantial rise of staff costs with every financial year was inevitably a source of concern to the Cuban delegation. Although the General Assembly had recommended at its twentieth session that the number of established posts in 1967 should be kept to that approved for 1966, certain United Nations organs had submitted proposals entailing considerable increases in staff. The development of United Nations responsibilities and activities need not necessarily be reflected in bureaucratic proliferation. The Secretariat should study means for the economic use of available resources and for improving the efficiency of the administrative apparatus.

27. While dealing with personnel questions he wished to point out in addition that the rules laid down by the General Assembly for equitable geographical representation in the United Nations Secretariat were not being respected. The Cuban delegation urged the Bureau of Personnel to take steps to remove the existing imbalances.

28. Part of the Organization's financial resources was being used for objectives contrary to its purposes and principles. What was more, the corresponding appropriations were rising constantly; for example, the funds requested under section 12, chapter I (United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea), showed an increase of 170 per cent over the corresponding expenditure for 1965, and the Secretary-General was proposing to request for 1968 an appropriation of \$56,000 for the construction of an exhibition hall to house various objects of historical interest relating to the Cemetery. The Cuban delegation was opposed to the provision of any funds for expenditure relating to the Cemetery in Korea; such expenditure should be charged to the imperialist Powers, whose forces, under cover of the United Nations flag, had carried out aggression against the Korean people.

29. The Cuban delegation was similarly opposed to the credit requested in chapter V (United Nations bond issue) of the same section, which related to measures incompatible with the Charter.

30. One of the most questionable items of the budget was that chapter under section 16 (Special missions) which related to UNCURK, a body whose very existence was a breach of the United Nations Charter and which had absorbed part of the Organization's financial resources for sixteen years without any useful result.

31. Finally, it had to be noted that part of the funds appropriated by the United Nations for assistance to refugees was being used, in defiance of the established rules, to provide aid to a group of persons who had not left Cuba clandestinely. Such a procedure was contrary to the purposes for which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been established and constituted an unfriendly act towards a State Member of the Organization.

32. Rather than study means of expanding the United Nations premises, the Secretariat should propose a

study of the possibilities of transferring United Nations Headquarters to some other country offering better conditions and greater security. The Cuban delegation, whose Permanent Mission had already been the object of several acts of aggression, shared the apprehension which had been expressed on that subject.

33. Mr. HULTGREN (Sweden) recalled that the Secretary-General, in his statement at the 1124th meeting of the Committee (A/C.5/1065), had mentioned the financial difficulties still facing the Organization, had discussed the 1967 budget and, in particular, the problems created by the continued increase in the number of conferences and meetings, and, finally, had stressed the need for improved co-operation between the various United Nations organs.

34. With regard to the Organization's financial difficulties, it must be noted that, despite the consensus achieved at the twentieth session to the effect that those difficulties should be solved through voluntary contributions, the contributions so far made were insufficient. Some delegations were concerned at the increased expenditure planned for 1967, and some had expressed reservations concerning payment of interest and instalments of principal due on the United Nations bond issue. In the view of his delegation, a change in the scale originally fixed would not be justified and might have serious consequences for the Organization. The increased expenditure was, in view of the increase in the Organization's membership and the expansion of its activities, fundamentally a sign of health. His delegation would vote for the adoption of the 1967 budget estimates, which it regarded as a very moderate one and found quite acceptable.

35. With regard to the continued increase in the number of conferences and meetings and in the volume of their related documentation, his delegation felt that it was high time to check that inflationary trend. That could be accomplished only through co-operation and discipline on the part of all Member States. Only if Member States were willing to give way in matters affecting some of their own interests would it be possible to establish priorities with regard to conferences, meetings and documentation. The idea of setting up a standing committee of the General Assembly to deal with the programme of meetings should be given full consideration by the Fifth Committee.

36. His delegation shared the hope that the second report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts (A/6343) would help to strengthen the whole United Nations system, and it supported all the recommendations in the report. As far as implementation of those recommendations was concerned, it might not be realistic to expect them to gain immediate or full acceptance by the various United Nations organs. Even if their implementation took some time, however, they provided a basis for improved co-ordination between United Nations organs.

37. Mr. OMRAN (Syria) recalled that at the twentieth session his delegation had stressed the need to economize and to obtain maximum value from all money spent. The expenditure of some \$128 million planned for 1967 was not in itself a cause for concern, and his delegation was glad to see that the Advisory

Committee had recommended a policy of the utmost economy consistent with the efficiency of the Organization. It was most important, in that connexion, to give priority to productive activities, to distinguish between administrative and operating expenses, and to place special emphasis on economic and social activities, particularly in the fields of industrial and economic development.

38. The reports of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts justified the hopes which his delegation had placed in the Committee, and it had been glad to see those hopes embodied in the draft resolution introduced by the French delegation (A/C.5/L.873 and Add.1 and 2). His delegation had associated itself with the sponsors of the draft resolution because the latter would permit greater control of United Nations activities, increased rationalization and improved co-ordination and planning. His delegation therefore hoped earnestly that the recommendations contained in the resolution would be implemented.

39. With regard to the problems created by the increasing number of conferences and meetings, the Secretary-General's suggestion for the creation of a standing committee on the programme of meetings was a very timely one, and the question of establishing priorities deserved serious study. The increase in the volume of documentation should also receive close attention; that matter, too, could perhaps be entrusted to the committee on the programme of meetings.

40. The membership of the United Nations had increased from 51 to 121 in the past twenty-one years, and that change should be reflected in the composition of the Secretariat staff. Some progress had admittedly been made in that regard, but it was less than it should have been. In that connexion, he fully shared the view of the representatives of Kenya (1128th meeting) and Pakistan (1135th meeting): it was most regrettable that very few nationals of developing countries held D-1 posts in the Secretariat and that there were even fewer such persons at the higher levels. That lack of balance, which must be corrected, had given rise to the feeling that some individuals in high posts might be serving the interests of certain countries rather than those of the international community as a whole.

41. His delegation felt that the staff of the United Nations International School deserved the highest commendation. However, it wished to express the view that the School's administration should accord equal treatment to the children of Secretariat and delegation personnel and should not discriminate between them in financial or other matters. It also appeared that the School had not applied the principle of geographical distribution in recruiting its staff and its instructors. A large number of instructors, particularly in the higher classes, came from a relatively few geographical areas. His delegation felt that it would be in the best interests of the United Nations community and of the School itself for the latter's staff to reflect the widest possible geographical distribution consistent with maintenance of the necessary level of competence.

42. With regard to the Office of Public Information, he noted that press correspondents from certain

areas were granted greater facilities at Headquarters than other correspondents. Similar practices prevailed with regard to some members of the United Nations Correspondents' Association. Since those two matters directly affected the United Nations, it was to be hoped that they would receive proper attention.

43. Turning to the appropriation requested for a study of the possibility of constructing a new annex to the Headquarters building, he expressed the view that the matter should receive careful examination. His delegation fully shared the view of some delegations which questioned the suitability of New York as the site of United Nations Headquarters. There was no need to mention the discrimination to which many delegates were subjected, the hostile attitudes of some narrow-minded groups, and the insulting and threatening letters which many delegations received. In view of the remarks made by the representative of the United States of America at the 1136th meeting with regard to the invasion of his delegation's offices, he was compelled to point out that the police had arrived on the scene half an hour after they had been called, that the representative of the Permanent Mission of the United States had arrived one hour after he had received an urgent call, that the invaders had occupied most of the rooms, including the Ambassador's room, in which they had locked themselves for more than an hour and a half, that some documents had been lost and others left in disorder, and that it had taken the police and the representative of the United States Mission some two hours to open the locked door and eject the intruders. More recently, another group had been discovered while it was preparing for attacks on various targets, with United Nations Headquarters high on the list. The members of the Committee had read about the incredible arsenal that had been seized. In the view of his delegation, the United Nations could not function properly and freely in such an atmosphere. It was regrettable, in that connexion, that some mass-circulation New York newspapers were giving so much publicity to the deeds of gangster groups of that kind. To do so was completely misguided and not in the best interests of the Organization. At the same time, it should be noted that such deeds were not at all in keeping with the traditional hospitality of the American people.

44. Mr. ZIEHL (United States of America) said he wished to assure the representative of Syria that his observations would be communicated to the competent United States authorities. He also wished to state categorically that the report published by the World Journal Tribune on 31 October 1966 concerning alleged threats to the United Nations was totally unfounded, although, as was well known, some extreme groups were hostile to the Organization.

First reading (continued)* (A/C.5/L.868,
A/C.5/L.871)

SECTION 11. PRINTING (A/6305, A/6307)

45. Mr. RIHA (Czechoslovakia) remarked that he had already at the 1129th meeting drawn attention to

the problem of documentation and publication costs. The first question had been mentioned also by other representatives in connexion with the 1967 budget estimates and the Ad Hoc Committee's second report (A/6343). As that Committee had noted, the volume of documentation had increased to an even greater extent than the number of conferences and meetings, and frequently it had been undertaken only at the price of serious disruption of regular work, while in other cases the quality of the documentation had suffered. The Advisory Committee had also been considering the question of documentation for several years. In paragraph 251 of its report to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session,^{2/} paragraph 253 of its report at the nineteenth session,^{3/} and paragraph 256 of its report at the current session (A/6307), the Advisory Committee had drawn attention to the number of recurrent publications and stressed the need for the United Nations and the specialized agencies to take appropriate measures to avoid duplication of material in their publication programmes. That recommendation was extremely important. The Advisory Committee had also urged the Publications Board to establish and apply even stricter criteria and control in its continuing review of official records and publications of the United Nations.

46. Since the problem of the growing volume of publications had been discussed at various times by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts, the Advisory Committee and even the Economic and Social Council, the Publications Board should make an over-all review of it with a view to future action. His delegation was consulting with other delegations on the possible ways of reaching that goal.

47. He reserved the right to return to the matter if those consultations culminated in a draft resolution that could be put before the Committee. His delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation to reduce by \$93,000 the Secretary-General's request for an appropriation under section 11 of the 1967 budget estimates.

48. Mr. MERON (Israel) remarked that his delegation had for a number of years been proposing that more printing contracts be awarded to developing countries. Nevertheless, most contracts were still being awarded to European countries and to the United States. He understood that for many reasons it might not be easy to depart from that tradition; but a determined effort should none the less be made to distribute printing contracts on a broader geographical basis. He noted with satisfaction that the Advisory Committee suggested (A/6307, para. 261) that the United Nations should contact the Government Printing Offices with a view to ascertaining whether they were interested in contracting for the production of United Nations documents and publications and finding out what facilities they had. The Secretariat might also send to those printing offices samples of current work with the relevant prices, so that they could decide whether they wanted to bid for such contracts.

49. Mr. DINGLI (Malta) noted that the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General under section 11

^{2/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Supplement No. 7.

^{3/} Ibid., Nineteenth Session, Supplement No. 7.

*Resumed from the 1133rd meeting.

exceeded the 1965 expenditure by some \$555,000, an increase of over 40 per cent. Efforts to contain the volume of printing had obviously failed. A comparison between the 1966 and 1967 appropriations showed that an increase of \$108,000 was attributable mainly to chapter II (Recurrent publications) and chapter IV (Office of Public Information). However, he preferred to take the 1965 expenditures as a basis for comparison. It was then seen that the principal increases were connected with chapter I (Official Records) where it amounted to \$281,000, chapter II (Recurrent publications) with an increase of \$140,000, and chapter III (Studies and reports) with an increase of \$122,000. It was clear from those figures that a review and rationalization of the printing programmes was imperative. In that connexion, his delegation shared the hope of the Advisory Committee (A/6307, para. 255) that every effort would be exerted to produce more concise records, thereby containing the total number of pages of all official records. It also endorsed the Advisory Committee's suggestion (*ibid.*, para. 260) that the Secretary-General should consider a strengthening of the procedures of documents control so as to eliminate any material not essential to the issuance of concise, factual and useful documentation.

50. He was aware that rising printing costs might be matched by corresponding increases in income from the sale of publications, but he felt it would be more realistic to consider publications in the wider context of their total cost, which was not reflected in the appropriations requested under section 11. As to studies and reports, rationalization of the programmes and projects of the various United Nations organs would release resources for work more directly related to the needs of the developing countries. Some publications could certainly be eliminated and the money employed for programmes of greater use to Member States. That applied, for example, to the "Monthly list of books catalogued in the Library of the United Nations". Other publications could be issued at longer intervals; the Bulletin on Narcotics, for instance, could be published only once a year.

51. The Publications Board, in co-operation with the Advisory Committee and the departments concerned, should re-evaluate recurrent publications in terms of their value for Member States and of the staff they required. That might well result in a saving of \$30,000, which, together with the reduction of \$93,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee, could be transferred to part V of the budget estimates, namely for the Technical programmes.

52. Mr. BEN AISSA (Tunisia) noted that the volume of documentation continued to grow and the United Nations did not have the requisite printing facilities to cope with it. The United Nations did only a small part of the printing and contracted for the rest outside. He wondered whether it might not set up its own printing office which would take care of all United Nations work. In the long run, that might be more economical than having documents printed abroad, a time-wasting procedure which entailed delays in document distribution. He asked whether the Secretariat could not make a study of the question, and also whether the reproduction of documents by the Secretariat itself could not be made a general practice.

53. Mr. KOUYATE (Guinea) congratulated the Advisory Committee on taking account of the concern of most Member States and proposing a reduction under section 11. The increase in the membership of the United Nations was bound to lead to an increase in printing and printing costs. Instead of deploring that rise in the budget, the Committee should bear in mind the present circumstances and see whether the budget duly reflected them. Shorter documents would of course be welcome, but it was hardly logical to set up new bodies and at the same time demand a reduction of documentation. The question could be solved satisfactorily only by a rationalization of the work and a closer collaboration between States with adequate printing facilities. He agreed with the Israel representative that the United Nations ought to award printing contracts to as many countries as possible.

54. Mr. CISS (Senegal) endorsed the Tunisian representative's comments and felt that the establishment of a printing office would certainly be to the advantage of the United Nations. It would, at least, make it possible to eliminate the delays which resulted from using printers outside the United States; for the time factor was of very great importance to delegations, and their work would be greatly facilitated if copies in the various languages could be circulated simultaneously. The actual presentation of the documents was of only secondary importance, since delegations were primarily concerned with the contents. Pending the results of the study suggested by the representative of Tunisia, extensive use should be made of the offset process for document reproduction, and that would enable delegations to obtain the documents they needed more quickly.

55. Mr. S. K. SINGH (India) said that an organization such as the United Nations, which had great economic and social responsibilities and played a prime role in the maintenance of world peace and security, and whose membership was constantly increasing, should not have its expenditures in those fields subjected to any kind of limitation. Nevertheless, its activities in other sectors could bear stricter limitations than at present.

56. The Fifth Committee was chiefly concerned with the quality of documentation and the speed with which it was produced. The Publications Board should pay particular attention to improving the quality of the various publications, bearing in mind the comments of the Advisory Committee. It was to be regretted that Member States sometimes had to complain about inaccurate information regarding them which was published by the United Nations.

57. His delegation also agreed that printing contracts should be awarded to a number of developing countries. The question of the optimum volume of reproduction work to be done internally should be approached in a constructive spirit, and the observations made by the representatives of Tunisia and Senegal deserved careful consideration.

58. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary for Conference Services, Chairman of the Publications Board), said that in accordance with financial rule 110.41 of the United Nations, which defined its functions, the Publications Board had, during 1966, co-ordinated

the planning and supervised the execution of the publications programme and the preparation of the estimates for printing. It had devoted eight meetings to consideration of the programmes proposed for 1967 by the various Secretariat departments and by the overseas offices. It had made detailed comments, and in some cases it had had to modify the figures proposed, bearing constantly in mind the concern shown by the Fifth Committee at the increase in printing expenses and the Secretary-General's instructions that, if possible, those expenses should not exceed the amount approved for 1966. The Board had therefore tried to limit the number and length of publications and the number of copies for official distribution free of cost, while bearing in mind that the increase in the membership of the United Nations necessarily entailed additional costs. The reductions which it had finally made had related mostly to section 11, chapter I (Official Records).

59. With regard to the geographical distribution of printing contracts, the Secretariat and the Publications Board were constantly seeking more countries for the printing of United Nations publications. However, their choice must be guided primarily by the fundamental considerations of time, cost and transport facilities.

60. Turning to the matter of editorial control and the role of the Publications Board, which had been touched upon by the Maltese and Indian delegations, he reminded the Committee that during the past year a number of changes affecting documentation had been introduced. By the first of those changes the functions of the Chairman of the Publications Board and of the Chief Editor had been transferred from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to the Office of the Under-Secretary for Conference Services. Thus the policy and administrative direction of Editorial Control, the executive arm of the Secretary-General in all matters involving editing and control and limitation of documentation, had been put under one head, instead of two, as formerly. It had also been decided that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs would in future assume a larger measure of responsibility for its own publications and documents, including those of the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations and of the Office of Special Fund Operations. That task would be performed by a special unit, to which officers from Editorial Control would be permanently outposted.

61. In reply to the representatives of Tunisia and Senegal, who had asked whether all reproduction and printing could not be done internally, he said that the Secretariat had not the necessary equipment. The reproduction of certain documents, particularly supplements, which had to be issued very quickly, would require additional staff and equipment or a revision of other work programmes. Nevertheless, the matter was under consideration.

62. With regard to chapter II of section 11, to which the representative of Malta had called attention, consideration of the whole question would soon be completed; in any event, the Publications Board had no intention of adding any more titles to the list, unless such a step was fully justified. Finally, the Secretariat had made a special effort during 1966 to have documents, particularly reports and draft resolutions, circulated simultaneously in the various languages.

63. Mr. FAKIH (Kenya) thanked the Chairman of the Publications Board for the details he had given. He also wished to associate himself with the Tunisian representative's comments, particularly in regard to the possibility of having all printing done internally. He asked whether a report on the subject would be submitted to the Fifth Committee in the near future, or not until the twenty-second session.

64. Mr. MTINGWA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that he agreed with the representative of Israel concerning the broadest possible geographical distribution of printing contracts. He also supported the request made by the representatives of Tunisia and Kenya.

65. Mr. NOSEK (Under-Secretary for Conference Services, Chairman of the Publications Board) said that, if the Committee wished, a preliminary report could be submitted before the end of the current session, and a full report would be submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session.

66. Mr. BEN AISSA (Tunisia) thanked the Publications Board and its Chairman for the great efforts they were making to comply with the wishes of the Fifth Committee.

67. Mr. TAI (Malaysia) felt that the main point was to determine what should be printed and what should not. That was the only way in which one could hope to improve the quality of documentation. The importance and interest of United Nations technical, economic, social and political publications was demonstrated by the fact that an increasing number of universities were making use of them. Special attention should therefore be given to their production.

68. With regard to contractual printing work done externally, the technical aspect should not be overlooked, and the main concern should be for the quality of the work, rather than for the satisfaction of certain national interests.

69. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should proceed to vote on the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning section 11 of the budget estimates for the financial year 1967.

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/6307, para. 263) for an appropriation in the amount of \$1,815,000 under section 11 was approved on first reading by 73 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.