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 MEETING**

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Chairman: Mr. G. G. TCHERNOUCHTENKO
 (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic).

AGENDA ITEM 74

Budget estimates for the financial year 1969 (*con-
 tinued*) (A/7125, A/7205 and Corr.1, A/7207, A/
 7236, A/7255, A/7280, A/7304, A/7336, A/7337, A/
 7339, A/7340, A/7341, A/7351, A/7356, A/7359,
 A/7366, A/7367 and Corr.1, A/7373, A/7400, A/
 7414/Rev.1, A/7454, A/C.5/1168, A/C.5/1169 and
 Corr.1, A/C.5/1175-1179, A/C.5/1182, A/C.5/
 1183, A/C.5/1185, A/C.5/1186 and Add.1, A/C.5/
 1187-1189, A/C.5/1200, A/C.5/1214 and Corr.1,
 A/C.5/L.943, A/C.5/L.948, A/C.5/L.950, A/C.5/
 L.960)

Revised requirements (A/7454, A/C.5/1214 and
 Corr.1)

1. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Com-
 mittee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions)
 said that the submission of the revised requirements
 (A/C.5/1214 and Corr.1) constituted something of a
 departure from past budgetary practice, for those
 estimates included various anticipated additional re-
 quirements which, under the earlier practice, would

have been submitted as part of the supplementary
 estimates. The Advisory Committee welcomed that
 new procedure, which was in keeping with the recom-
 mendations made by the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts
 to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the
 Specialized Agencies in paragraph 39 of its second
 report^{L/} and which reflected the recommendation
 made by the Advisory Committee itself that all fore-
 seeable expenses should be included in the budget
 estimates. The late submission of the report had
 caused the Advisory Committee some difficulties in
 its consideration of the revised requirements, and at
 its next session it would examine more closely the
 accuracy of those estimates in the light of experience,
 as reflected in the mid-year review.

2. Of the total additional requirements \$2,158,000
 listed in the Secretary-General's report, \$1,225,400
 related to anticipated increases in salary rates and
 post adjustment classifications. In that connexion,
 the Advisory Committee was confident that the Secre-
 tary-General would be guided by the recommendation
 in paragraph 40 of the Ad Hoc Committee's report
 that increases due to rises in prices (including in this
 term salaries and wages) should so far as possible
 be absorbed by reassessment of priorities, redeploy-
 ment of resources and adjustments within the budget.
 Additional requirements not relating to adjustments
 in the rates of remuneration were estimated by the
 Secretary-General at \$932,900. In paragraphs 6 to 27
 of its report (A/7454) the Advisory Committee recom-
 mended reductions in a total amount of \$272,000. Thus,
 additional appropriations recommended by the Advi-
 sory Committee in respect of the revised estimates
 amounted to \$1,886,300.

3. The expenditure estimates approved by the Fifth
 Committee on first reading totalled \$142,105,050.
 Subsequent decisions had added \$9,182,200 to that
 figure. The \$1,886,300 relating to the revised esti-
 mates would bring the over-all total to \$153,173,550.
 However, the latter figure could not be regarded as a
 final total, for it excluded the financial implications
 of decisions taken by the General Assembly since
 14 December 1968.

4. In conclusion, he drew attention to paragraphs 4.5
 to 4.7 of the Secretary-General's report concerning
 the agreement reached with the Government of Switzer-
 land for the establishment at Geneva of United Nations
 postal activities of the same type as those now con-
 ducted in New York, which would produce a net revenue
 of \$650,000 in 1969.

5. Mr. KIRKBRIDE (Secretariat) said that the pro-
 cedure reflected in the Secretary-General's report

^{L/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session,
 Annexes, agenda item 80, document A/6343.

(A/C.5/1214 and Corr.1) was indeed an innovation, the purpose of which was twofold. First, it represented an effort to bring together all decisions which the Fifth Committee had taken to date for a comprehensive picture of the total budget estimates for 1969 and thus serve as a point of departure for the second reading; that should facilitate the Committee's task of examining each section and the amounts involved. Secondly, it represented an effort to include in the budget even at that late stage all foreseeable expenses, with a view to keeping supplementary estimates to a minimum. It was true that the report had been submitted very late in the session, but that was unavoidable, since the Secretary-General had had to wait to last-minute decisions by the other Main Committees. Furthermore, consideration of a number of important issues had been left until the closing days of the session and, pending the votes on those questions, the Secretary-General had been unable to anticipate how much expenditure they would entail. Moreover, a major part of the Secretary-General's report naturally dealt with foreseeable upward revisions in salary and post adjustment rates, and those were also items which could not be examined with precision until near the end of the session.

6. Mr. EL-ATTRASH (Syria) said with reference to section 3 of the budget estimates that, while he was not calling for any change in the estimates, he would like to suggest that it might be possible to make more effective use of available funds in connexion with the radio and television programmes produced by the Arabic section of the Radio and Visual Services Division so that they would more accurately reflect the interests of the area concerned. A greater number of programmes could be provided without incurring additional expenditure if the Arabic section was given authority to make decisions concerning their preparation of programmes. There was a great deal of interest throughout the Arab world in the activities of the United Nations and his delegation would like the Arabic section to direct a larger number of broadcasts to the area, supplying the listening public there with original radio and television programmes covering United Nations activities wherever they took place.

7. Mr. FINNY (New Zealand) said that he would like to endorse the Saudi Arabian representative's appeal for the use of a different set of criteria to determine General Service salaries. The Secretary-General had pointed out that the General Service salaries were comparable to salaries paid by other organizations in New York for similar work. He questioned, however, whether that was the best way of dealing with the problem. A policy of maintaining comparability with other organizations was reasonable, provided that the salaries paid by those other organizations were themselves adequate. The basic criterion should be whether people could reasonably be expected to live on the salaries they were paid. However desirable it might be to narrow the gap between lower-echelon staff and the Professional staff by salary increases, the fact was that what constituted a proper gap between Professional and lower categories had never been determined. It varied from one country to another. In his own country the gap was very narrow, for it was an integral part of New Zealand's social philosophy that human dignity should not always be sacrificed to

the cold laws of economics. If the adoption of new criteria made the United Nations the best employer in New York, he would see no harm in that development. The United Nations was different from other organizations and there was no reason why the salary structure in respect of non-Professional staff should not reflect that difference.

8. It was, of course, one thing to suggest that the Secretary-General should re-examine the basis on which salaries were determined, and quite another to decide just what the new criteria should be. In general, however, the delegation of New Zealand thought that it would be reasonable to prepare a personal budget of living costs for a married man with one or two children—including such items as rent, food, clothing, vacations and savings—and to determine the net amount required to enable such a family to live decently in New York. If that approach was adopted, he thought the purport of the comments made by the Saudi Arabian and other representatives would become obvious.

9. Mr. BARODY (Saudi Arabia) said that the upward revisions in salary and post adjustment rates referred to in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.9 of the Secretary-General's report would not, owing to current inflationary trends, represent a real increase in purchasing power. A 7 per cent increase could not be considered adequate when the cost of living in the past eight months alone had risen by more than that percentage. The question thus had two aspects: first, the need to protect the General Service staff from the effects of ever increasing inflation, and, secondly, the need to decide whether, in addition to compensating them for the increased cost of living, the General Service staff should be granted a real increase in their salaries. As things stood, it seemed to him that the General Service staff was not even being paid what could be called a living wage; they should be granted an increase of 14 or 15 per cent, and even that would scarcely do them justice. The effect of the existing situation was to discriminate against General Service staff members from other parts of the United States and from abroad, for the financial hardships imposed on them made it difficult in some cases for them to keep their families together. The injustice which was being done to the General Service staff was all the more flagrant in the light of the decisions just taken to expand Headquarters facilities at considerable cost and to add Russian to the list of working languages. As for the argument that a substantial increase in General Service salaries would narrow the gap between the salaries of the non-Professional and the Professional staff, he thought that the professionals themselves, if they had a feeling of identification with the United Nations and its dedication to the concept of human dignity, would not object. At the twenty-fourth session his delegation would submit a draft resolution calling for increases in General Service salaries which would reflect genuine respect for human rights.

10. He endorsed the Syrian representative's plea for improved radio and television broadcasts to the Arab world. The peoples of the Arab countries felt that they had been neglected by the United Nations and were tending to lose faith in the Organization. The

fact that the Arab countries were situated in one of the most sensitive and strategic parts of the world made it all the more necessary that they should be adequately covered by the Radio and Visual Services Division.

11. Mr. FAURA (Peru) said that some success had been achieved in improving the salaries of employees in the General Service category, thanks to the efforts of the Fifth Committee and the goodwill of the Secretary-General and his colleagues. He was happy to note that a special study of the security service had been undertaken, but regretted that it was not possible to make a comparative study of the Visitors' Service, as no similar group existed elsewhere. Nevertheless, he was fully confident that something would be done to raise the salaries of the guides, who were persons of high calibre engaged in what was essentially public relations work.

12. The replies of the Secretary-General to questions concerning equitable geographical distribution of Secretariat staff, which his delegation had asked to be included in the report of the Fifth Committee, were reservations rather than assurances, but he was confident that the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management would ensure that all practicable measures would be taken in 1969. Should that not be the case, his delegation would certainly take up the question again at the twenty-fourth session.

13. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee approved the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in its report (A/7454), involving an increase of \$1,886,300 in the expenditure estimates and \$747,800 in the income estimates, apportioned among the sections of the budget estimates for 1969 in accordance with the summary given in paragraph 29 of that report. It was understood that individual sections could be examined on second reading.

It was so decided.

14. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that, on behalf of the Secretary-General and his administration, he wished to express appreciation for the statements made on a number of occasions, particularly by the representatives of Saudi Arabia and New Zealand, concerning the emoluments of staff in the General Service category. As the latter contended, an across-the-board increase of even 7 per cent, with a "floor" of \$400, which represented an increase of 9 to 10 per cent in the salaries for the lowest levels, did little more than restore the situation prevailing in December 1967. In the period since that time, when the last survey of the salary scales of the General Service category had been made, the cost of living had increased by rather more than 6 per cent. The Committee would realize that the Secretary-General's position was not an easy one, as he was bound by the policy directives laid down by the General Assembly. However, the Secretary-General considered that the new increase in salaries would afford some relief. He would continue to keep the situation under review and, if necessary, exercise his prerogatives in 1969. In fact, a number of studies were in hand and the results, when available, would be acted on without delay. The Fifth Committee was the final arbiter;

its task was to secure equitable treatment for all staff, including the General Service category, and the Secretary-General was grateful for the support he had received.

15. The Advisory Committee had recommended a postponement of the special management audit of the electronic data processing facilities and operations of the United Nations to be conducted by a member of the Board of Auditors: probably because it had not been adequately informed of what the Board of Auditors had in mind. Lengthy consultations had taken place between the Secretariat and the representative of the Board of Auditors and, in view of the fact that the audit was considered to be a priority matter, a detailed plan had been drawn up with the intention of making the results of the study known to the Advisory Committee at its summer session. The study would be useful and timely, and he hoped that the Board of Auditors would not be prevented from considering the possibility of rearranging its priorities so as to proceed with the audit without extra expenditure under section 1 of the budget.

16. In conclusion, he was happy to inform the Committee that an additional amount of \$12,000 required to make the necessary services available to the Panel on Foreign Investment in Developing Countries which was scheduled to meet at Amsterdam in 1969, would be met by the host Government.

17. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had expressed the view that special audits such as the one mentioned by the Controller should be undertaken after consultations between the Advisory Committee and the Board of Auditors. He had in fact received a letter that morning from the Board explaining that the audit in question would entail a detailed study of current and prospective electronic data processing operations in New York, a detailed review of the electronic data processing operations and requirements in specified organs and agencies at Geneva and Vienna, an analysis of the information obtained, and recommendations on the over-all approach to the future development of computerized systems. In view of the scope and importance of the audit, he was sure that the Advisory Committee would not have objected to it, if the relevant information had been received in time. However, he was glad to note that the audit would now be carried out and did not require an additional appropriation and he expressed the hope that, since the study was being done by a member of the Board of Auditors, the organizations in the United Nations system would be fully consulted.

18. Mr. FENSOME (United Kingdom) said that, in approving the additional appropriations recommended by the Advisory Committee in its report (A/7454), the Fifth Committee had not followed its usual practice of voting on individual sections. His delegation had not requested a vote, on the understanding that Member States would have an opportunity to make known their views on all items of the budget when the Committee came to consider the estimates on second reading.

19. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation intended to express

its views on individual sections of the budget estimates in the course of the second reading. In the meantime, it considered that the revised requirements for 1969 were too high and that the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee were insufficient. In addition, like the Advisory Committee, it believed that in the matter of additional requirements under sections 3, 4, 12, 17 and 21, the Secretary-General should be guided by the recommendation contained in paragraph 40 of the second report of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts.^{2/}

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A submitted by the First Committee in document A/7445 on agenda item 96* (A/C.5/1226)

20. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, by the terms of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee (A/7445, para. 14, draft resolution A) concerning the Conference of Non-Nuclear Weapon States, the Secretary-General would be requested to appoint a group of 12 to 15 experts, to prepare a report on all possible contributions of nuclear technology to the economic and scientific advancement of the developing countries, and to transmit the report to Governments of States Members of the United Nations and to members of the specialized agencies and of IAEA. The Secretary-General had estimated in his note (A/C.5/1226) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution that its implementation would require an appropriation of \$129,500 in 1969.

21. From the text of the resolution and from the note by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee noted that the Secretary-General would be requested to draw the attention of the group of experts to the desirability of taking advantage of the experience of IAEA in preparing the report. It had also noted the Secretary-General's intention to secure the services of a technical co-ordinator and clerical staff to provide assistance to the group in research and in drafting the report. As no final decision had been taken regarding the number of experts, the size of the group might range from 12 to 15 members.

22. Although the Advisory Committee was not recommending a specific reduction in the Secretary-General's estimates, it believed that expenditures, especially to meet requirements for documentation and translation, could be kept at a lower level, and it looked for some savings in the total estimate of \$129,500 submitted by the Secretary-General.

23. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should decide to request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that, if it adopted the draft resolution of the First Committee, an additional appropriation of \$129,500—namely, \$126,000 under section 3 and \$3,500 under section 10—would be required for 1969.

It was so decided.

*Conference of Non-Nuclear Weapon States: Final document of the Conference.

^{2/} *Ibid.*

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee in document A/7462 on agenda item 24** (A/C.5/1228)

24. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had noted from the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1228) that the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee (see A/7462, para. 9) related to four distinct items: the publications programme in respect of the 1968 United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; the establishment of a working group on communication by direct broadcast from satellites; a two-week meeting in New York of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; and a four-week meeting at Geneva of the Legal Sub-Committee of the same Committee.

25. As regards the publications programme, the Secretary-General had indicated in his report on the supplementary estimates for 1968 (A/7242, para. 2.9) that, inasmuch as the work in question could not be undertaken in 1968, a credit of \$165,000 provided for the publications programme would be surrendered. The Advisory Committee had noted that, following further discussion on the matter, a revised publications plan was to be carried out in 1969 at an estimated cost of \$69,000—that is to say, \$96,000 less than the original estimates. The Advisory Committee welcomed the choice of a more economical plan and concurred with the figure proposed. It had no objection, either, to the estimate of \$22,000 for publishing the report of the working group on communication by direct broadcast from satellites, and would agree to the additional expenditure estimated at some \$2,600 for the proposed session of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.

26. With regard to the estimate of \$124,400 for a session of the Legal Sub-Committee at Geneva, the Advisory Committee noted from the Secretary-General's report on the supplementary estimates for 1968 (*ibid.*, para. 2.3) that provision for a similar session held at Geneva in June 1968 had amounted to \$85,000 and that actual expenditure had totalled only \$65,000, the saving being due primarily to a more economical deployment and use of temporary conference staff. Bearing in mind the experience of 1968, the Advisory Committee recommended that the estimate for the session of the Legal Sub-Committee in 1969 should be reduced to \$85,000—that is, to the level of the original estimate for the 1968 session.

27. If the Fifth Committee agreed with those recommendations, it might wish to inform the General Assembly that, in the event of the adoption of the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee, an additional appropriation of \$178,600 would be required under section 2 of the budget for 1969.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation was adopted.

28. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to report on the matter directly to the General Assembly.

It was so decided.

**International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space: report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee in document A/7429 on agenda item 87* (A/C.5/1227)

29. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had examined the note (A/C.5/1227) by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee (see A/7429, para. 73). Under the terms of the resolution the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to co-operate with the Special Committee on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States and to provide all the services, documentation and other facilities necessary for its work, and the Special Committee would be requested to meet in 1969 in New York or at Geneva or any other suitable place for which the Secretary-General received an invitation, in order to continue and complete its work. The Secretary-General had stated that, should the Special Committee meet in New York, no additional costs would arise. If the meetings were held at Geneva, the Secretary-General estimated that an additional appropriation of \$80,000 would be required in the budget for 1969. Finally, should the Special Committee meet elsewhere, additional costs would be assumed by the host Government under the terms of General Assembly resolution 2116 (XX).

30. The Advisory Committee understood that the Committee on Conferences had suggested that the Special Committee might wish to meet sometime during July or August 1969. Since there would be no additional financial implications if the Special Committee met in New York, the Advisory Committee recommended that no provision should be made for the time being. Should the Special Committee decide to meet in Geneva, the Advisory Committee suggested that a request for the additional appropriation involved should be submitted under the terms of the General Assembly resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the financial year 1969.

The Advisory Committee's recommendations were adopted.

31. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to report on the matter directly to the General Assembly.

It was so decided.

Administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A submitted by the First Committee in document A/7477 on agenda item 26**

32. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions)

*Consideration of principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations: report of the Special Committee on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States.

**Examination of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind: report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction.

said that the First Committee had just adopted a draft resolution (A/7477, para. 29, draft resolution A) concerning the establishment of a Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction. The First Committee had been informed of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution in a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.1/L.436^{3/}), who had estimated that the adoption of the draft would entail expenses amounting to \$115,300. The Advisory Committee had already had occasion to consider the proposal in question and recommended that a lump sum of \$100,000 should be appropriated for the work of the new Committee in 1969 and that that sum should be included in the final amount that the Fifth Committee would be considering during the second reading of the budget estimates.

It was so decided.

Decision concerning the administrative and financial implications of subsequent proposals

33. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) proposed that the administrative and financial implications of any other decisions which might be taken before the end of the current session should be dealt with under the resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, since it would not be possible after the end of the meeting to include any additional figures in the final estimates to be considered on second reading of the budget.

It was so decided.

34. Mr. BANNIER (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that on the following day the Advisory Committee, in accordance with its usual practice, would be submitting an addendum (A/7207/Add.1) to its main report on the budget estimates containing the text of three draft resolutions. To ensure that the draft resolutions could be translated into all working languages, the Advisory Committee would have to observe a time-limit for completing the texts. As it might not have concluded its deliberations before the expiry of the time-limit, he reserved the right to make oral recommendations during the meetings on the following day.

35. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that, as a result of action taken by the Committee at that meeting, the total estimates to be considered on second reading would be as follows: expenditure, \$154,750,250; income, \$27,220,240.

36. Mr. MARRON (Spain) asked whether those figures could now be regarded as final.

37. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the calculations made in arriving at the two figures would be carefully re-checked before the following meeting. If the calculations proved to be correct, the two figures could be regarded as final.

^{3/} Mimeographed.

AGENDA ITEM 73

Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1968
(concluded)*

DRAFT REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE TO
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/C.5/L.980)

38. Mr. MEYER PICON (Mexico), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report (A/C.5/L.980).

39. The CHAIRMAN expressed the hope that the Committee would be able to take action on the draft report at that meeting, even though for technical reasons the text was available only in English and Spanish.

40. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary) observed that the Committee had completed its substantive discussion on the subject under discussion on 17 October 1968. He could not understand what technical reasons there could be for the delay in distributing the French and Russian texts.

41. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that, although discussion on the Secretary-General's report on the subject (A/7242) had been completed on 17 October, the item had as in previous years been kept open until late in the session to allow for the possibility of requests for further supplementary appropriations. Only on 17 December had it become certain that no further supplementary estimates for 1968 would be presented at the current session. In future, perhaps, discussion on the item might be formally concluded at an earlier stage.

*Resumed from the 1239th meeting.

42. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that the figure in the second column for section 21 in the draft resolution contained in paragraph 18 of the draft report, should be placed in parentheses to indicate that the original appropriation for UNIDO had been reduced.

43. The CHAIRMAN said that that correction would be made in the final text.

44. Mr. FENSOME (United Kingdom) said that there appeared to be an inconsistency between the first and last sentences of paragraph 10 of the draft report. That inconsistency could be removed by deleting the word "always" in the first sentence.

45. Mr. YUNUS (Pakistan) said that paragraph 10 gave an account of the views of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as recorded in the summary records. If the relevant summary record showed that the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had used the word "always", that word should be retained in the report.

46. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee might ask the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to consult the summary record of the meeting in question and tell the Rapporteur whether he thought that any change in the text of paragraph 10 was required.

It was so decided.

The draft report (A/C.5/L.980), as amended, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.