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ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Santiago MEYER PICON (Mexico)

1. By a letter of 1 November 1968 (A/7226), the representatives of the Congo (Democratic Republic of), Ethiopia, Ghana, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Southern Yemen, Spain, the Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania requested the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Enlargement of the Committee on Contributions" in the agenda of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly. A draft resolution was attached to the request.
2. At its 1722nd plenary meeting, on 18 November 1968, the Assembly decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.
3. The Fifth Committee considered this item at its 1262nd meeting, on 20 November 1968.
4. In the course of the discussion on the item, its sponsors pointed out that rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which sets out the composition of the Committee on Contributions, states that its members should be selected on a broad geographical basis. Since the initial establishment of the Committee, the membership of the Organization, and particularly the African membership, had more than doubled. The size of the Committee on Contributions had remained unchanged with not a single representative from the African States. The African Member States are anxious to participate in and contribute to the work of the Committee.

5. It was not only on the basis of equitable geographical representation, however, that the sponsors were requesting the enlargement. As an expert body, it was important that the Committee on Contributions retain its technical character. The African States were aware of the high standards it called for and would do their utmost to present qualified candidates.
6. Some of the delegations, which fully endorsed the addition of two members representative of the African Member States, pointed out that this enlargement of the Committee on Contributions to twelve members would make it equal in size to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. They were very strongly of the opinion that the size of the two bodies had now reached a maximum and should not be allowed to increase further if they were to function as competent expert bodies. Increased size might result in upsetting the delicate financial balance of the Organization and even paralyse the work of the two Committees.
7. During the discussion, certain changes suggested by the delegations of Brazil and India were included in the original proposal. Moreover, the delegations of Chile, Iran, Syria, Uganda and Yugoslavia asked to be associated with the sponsorship of the proposal.
8. The Committee decided unanimously to recommend that the General Assembly should decide to enlarge the Committee on Contributions to include two experts nationals of African Member States.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

9. The Fifth Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Enlargement of the Committee on Contributions: amendment to rule 159 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 14 (1) of 13 February 1946, by which the membership of the Committee on Contributions was established at ten members,

Noting that the membership of the United Nations has increased substantially since the adoption of that resolution and that the present membership of the Committee on Contributions does not include any nationals of African Member States,

Noting further that the principle of broad geographical representation should be taken into account in the composition of the Committee on Contributions,

1. Decides to increase the membership of the Committee on Contributions from ten to twelve members;

2. Decides to amend, with effect from 1 January 1969, rule 159 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly to read as follows:

"The General Assembly shall appoint an expert Committee on Contributions, consisting of twelve members."
