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ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Common services of United Nations organizations at the Vienna International Centre

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. In document A/39/733 the Advisory Committee gave its observations and recommendations on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on common services of United Nations organizations at the Vienna International Centre, transmitted by the Secretary-General's note (A/39/520), and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/39/520/Add.1, annex). In paragraph 14 of its report (A/39/733) the Advisory Committee stated that it "supports the idea of a unified conference service and, taking into account the reasons advanced by the Secretary-General in paragraph 18 of A/39/520/Add.1, believes responsibility for this should be assumed by the United Nations. In this connection, the Committee trusts that the merger of conference services can be accomplished without adding to the existing administrative structure." In its resolution 39/242 IV of 18 December 1984, the General Assembly concurred with the recommendations and observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fortieth session a further report setting out his proposals to give effect to those recommendations.

2. The Secretary-General sets forth in document A/C.5/40/7 a number of proposals for budgetary transfers and related administrative adjustments in connection with the proposed retention by the United Nations of responsibility for conference servicing at Vienna.

3. In paragraph 5 of his report the Secretary-General states that "a draft of the present report was submitted to UNIDO and IAEA for their review. While the comments of IAEA have been taken fully into account, the Director-General of UNIDO has expressed his strong reservations about the establishment at this time of a unified conference service under the United Nations."

4. In the absence of an agreed approach by the parties involved to the establishment of unified conference services, it appears doubtful that the proposals of the Secretary-General can be implemented as they now stand.

5. The Advisory Committee continues to believe in the idea of unified conference services at Vienna, as quoted in paragraph 1 above, for reasons of both economy and efficiency. The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to resume discussions with the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), on an urgent basis, with a view to resolving outstanding differences in time for a further report to be submitted to the Assembly at its current session. The Advisory Committee would then, in the context of that report, consider the details of such proposals as may emerge.

6. The Advisory Committee understands that the UNIDO proposed programme and budget for 1986-1987 will be considered by the UNIDO Programme and Budget Committee at its first session (30 September-11 October 1985) and that the Industrial Development Board will be meeting in early November, with the General Conference to convene in early December 1985. Under the circumstances, the General Assembly may wish to consider requesting the Secretary-General to transmit to the relevant UNIDO bodies its concern that no action be taken by UNIDO that would either preclude further discussions between the Secretary-General and the Director-General on unified conference services or prejudice the outcome of such discussions.

7. A draft decision embodying the recommendations of the Advisory Committee to the General Assembly is annexed to this report.

ANNEX

Draft decision of the Fifth Committee

Unified conference services for the United Nations
organizations at the Vienna International Centre

The General Assembly, recalling its resolution 39/242 IV of 18 December 1984, and mindful of the desirability of unified conference services at Vienna:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General, on an urgent basis, to resume discussions on unified conference services with the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization with a view to resolving outstanding differences in time for a further report to be submitted later at its fortieth session;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the relevant bodies of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization its concern that no action be taken by the Organization that would either preclude further discussions by the Secretary-General and the Director-General on unified conference services or prejudice the outcome of such discussions.
