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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981

Draft report of the Fifth Committee (Part III)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ali Ben-Said KHAMIS (Algeria)

IV. CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL SUBJECTS

A. Medium-term planning in the United Nations

The Fifth Committee considered the question of the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on medium-term planning in the United Nations at its 32nd, 34th, 54th and 74th meetings, between 30 October and 7 December.

For its consideration of this item, the Committee had before it the report of the CPC, 1/ an in-depth study of the medium-term planning process (E/AC.51/97), prepared by the Secretariat, and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/34/84).

At the 74th meeting, on _____, the representative of the United Republic of Cameroon introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/34/L.38) on behalf of Barbados, Belgium, Burundi, Chad, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, Romania, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Cameroon, the United States of America and Yugoslavia. He also announced that Argentina, Austria, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zaire had joined the list of sponsors.

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

At its 74th meeting, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.38 (see para. _____, draft resolution I).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/34/38).

B. Identification of activities that are completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective

The Committee considered this question at its 59th and 64th meetings, on 27 and 29 November. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/4 and Corr.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/34/7/Add.1).

At the 64th meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Poland introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/34/L.26) on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Canada, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975, in which it requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to include in the performance reports on the United Nations programme budgets relevant information on the staff and resources released as a result of the completion, reduction, reorganization, merging, elimination or otherwise of United Nations programmes, projects or activities,

"Recalling also its resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976, in which it stressed the responsibility of the Secretary-General to draw to the attention of the competent intergovernmental bodies activities that are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, indicating the resources which could be released so that the bodies concerned may take the necessary action,

"Recalling further its resolution 32/201 of 21 December 1977, in which it urged the Secretary-General to ensure the implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 3534 (XXX) and 31/93 in the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 and the performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979,

"Recalling also General Assembly resolution 33/204, in which it requested the Secretary-General to implement fully the above resolutions and to report to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session on the measures taken,

"Reaffirming the importance of identifying the activities that have been completed or are obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective in order to redeploy resources to finance new United Nations activities,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General 2/ and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 3/

2/ A/C.5/34/4 and Corr.1.

3/ A/34/7/Add.1.

"2. Notes with concern the finding of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination that the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General presented in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 33/204 is insufficient;

"3. Calls upon the Secretary-General to exercise his judgement so as to identify without further delay marginally useful and ineffective activities and to report thereon to the 1980 session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report also to the 1980 session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on activities which have been completed, on the resources, which have thereby been released, and on the consequent effect on the programme budget;

"5. Further requests the Secretary-General to present to the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly - through the ACABQ - a full and comprehensive report on the implementation of resolution 3534 (XXX) and its subsequent reaffirmations."

At the same meeting, the representative of Tunisia introduced an amendment (A/C.5/34/L.29) to draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.26, which read as follows:

- (a) In paragraph 1, insert the words "and in particular of paragraph 20" after the words "of the Secretary-General";
- (b) In paragraph 3, replace the existing text by the following text:

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to propose to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session criteria and arrangements to promote the development of an efficient procedure for the identification of activities that are completed, obsolete, ineffective and of marginal usefulness;"

Following consultations, the representative of Poland announced that the co-sponsors proposed the revision of the draft resolution by adding, at the end of operative paragraph 3, the words "including the criteria which has been used in this identification", and inserting the following new operative paragraph 5 (the original paragraph 5 thus becomes operative paragraph 6):

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to propose to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session criteria and arrangements to promote the development of an efficient procedure for the identification of activities that are completed, obsolete, ineffective or of marginal usefulness;"

At the 64th meeting, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.26, as revised (see para. _____, draft resolution II).

C. Arabic language services in the Secretariat

The question of Arabic language services in the Secretariat was considered by the Committee at its 38th to 40th, 52nd and 73rd meetings on 6 to 8 and 19 November and 6 December.

The Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Note by the Secretariat (A/C.5/34/L.49) on the provision of Arabic translation services to the General Assembly and its Main Committees.
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/28), in which he summarized the situation with regard to the provision of Arabic language services to the General Assembly and its Main Committees under Assembly resolution 3190 (XXVIII)
- (c) Note by the Secretariat (A/C.5/34/L.9) concerning the question of summary records in the Arabic language;
- (d) Letter dated 14 November from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations and Chairman of the Arab Group addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/41).

At the 52nd meeting, on 19 November, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/34/L.16) on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Colombia, the Comoros, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Yemen, announcing at the same time that Benin, Chad, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Yugoslavia had joined the list of sponsors.

The administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.16 were indicated orally by the representative of the Secretary-General at the 52nd meeting. 4/

At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.16 without a vote (see para. _____, draft resolution III).

D. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

The Committee considered this subject at its 73rd and 77th meetings, on 6 and 11 December, respectively. The Committee had before it a note by its Chairman (A/C.5/34/76), by which he informed the Committee that the Second Committee, at its

4/ Subsequently issued under the symbol A/C.5/34/46.

Both meetings had decided to refer draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.32 to the Fifth Committee for further consideration.

At the 73rd meeting, the representative of India, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.32. Subsequently, at the 77th meeting, the representative of India submitted a revision (A/C.5/34/L.42) of the draft resolution submitted to the Second Committee. Paragraph 3 was modified from:

"Requests the Secretary-General, accordingly, that adjustments be made in the draft programme and budget proposals for the biennium 1980-1981 to provide the United Nations Industrial Development Organization with an additional sum of \$1,200,000 for the consultation system, \$861,000 for the Industrial and Technological Information Bank and \$1,272,000 for technical assistance."

to read:

"Requests the Secretary-General, accordingly, to submit, during the thirty-fourth session, proposals for the draft programme budget for 1980-1981 that would enable the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to execute the programmes on the consultation system, the Industrial and Technological Information Bank and technical assistance, approved by the Industrial Development Board, and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council."

At the 77th meeting, the Committee, having noted the proposals of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/88), in response to the request in paragraph 3 of the revised draft resolution, adopted draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.42 by a recorded vote of 67 to 12, with 16 abstentions (see para. ____ draft resolution IV). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Bhutan, Brazil, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, France, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden.

E. Expenditures for conference activities

At the 52nd meeting, on 19 November, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/34/L.14), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered section 29 of the budget estimates for the biennium 1980-1981 and the corresponding section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

"Considering it necessary to hold down the further growth of budget expenditures for the conference activities of the United Nations,

"Requests the Secretary-General to refrain from submitting requests for additional appropriations to finance conference activities during the budgetary period 1980-1981."

The representative of Tunisia proposed adding the words "as far as possible" after the word "refrain" in the operative paragraph.

The representative of Turkey proposed the deletion of the word "further" in the second preambular paragraph.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics announced that his delegation would accept the amendments offered by Tunisia and Turkey. The representative of Algeria then proposed the following amendment to the second preambular paragraph:

"Considering it necessary to manage the resources allocated to United Nations conference activities with the maximum of efficiency,".

The Committee adopted this amendment without objection.

At its 52nd meeting, on 19 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.14, as amended, by 32 votes to 28, with 37 abstentions (see para. _____, draft resolution V).

F. Review of procedures for the award of contracts

At the 82nd meeting, on 13 December, the representative of Panama presented a draft resolution (A/C.5/34/L.20) and announced that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had become a sponsor of the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting that the programme budget of the United Nations contains considerable appropriations for construction of premises,

"Noting further that the volume and value of surplus property and equipment is likely to grow with the increase in United Nations activities,

"Bearing in mind that the United Nations Board of Auditors has reported to the ACABQ that it had made recommendations designed to improve procurement and inventory systems (A/34/486),

"Desirous of ensuring that United Nations resources are expended in the most economical manner,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to review existing procedures for the award of construction contracts, bearing in mind the possibility of going to tender on an international basis, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

"2. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a report on current procedures governing the disposal of surplus property and equipment, together with recommendations on how these procedures can be improved in the interest of maximizing income from the sale of surplus property and equipment."

At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines proposed the following text as a new third preambular paragraph:

"Concerned by the increasing costs of construction projects,".

This proposal was accepted by the co-sponsors.

Following a discussion of operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, during which the representatives of Tunisia, Italy and the United States of America suggested amendments to the wording, the sponsors announced the following revision of the text:

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to review existing procedures for the award of contracts, including, in particular, construction contracts, bearing in mind the possibility of increased tendering on an international basis, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;".

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

At its 82nd meeting, on 13 December, the Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.20, as revised, without a vote (see para. _____, draft resolution VI).

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1. Resources for the implementation of the work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) at the regional level

The Committee considered this subject at its 31st meeting, on 13 December. The Committee had before it a note by its Chairman (A/C.5/34/77), by which he informed the Committee that, at its 54th meeting, on 1 December, the Second Committee had decided to refer draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.68, as well as the related statement of administrative and financial implications (A/C.2/34/L.62), to the Fifth Committee for further consideration. The Committee also had before it an additional statement by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.5/34/77/Add.1).

At the 31st meeting, the representative of India introduced the draft resolution (A/C.2/34/L.68) on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations which are members of the Group of 77.

At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.68 by 72 votes to 0, with 7 abstentions (see para. ____ draft resolution VII).

Establishment of an Information Systems Unit in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

At its 51st meeting, on 19 November 1979, the Committee considered the question of the establishment of an Information Systems Unit in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/5), the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/34/380), as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/34/7/Add.2).

At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico introduced the following oral draft decision:

The General Assembly

Decides that, subject to the availability of additional voluntary funds, the pilot operation of the Information Systems Unit's (ISU) Development Information System be extended for a further year and that, in consequence, the General Assembly will pronounce itself on the continuance (or otherwise) of ISU at its thirty-fifth session.

Also at the 51st meeting, the representative of the United States of America proposed the following oral amendment as an addition to the draft decision proposed by Mexico, after the words "further year":

"that the use of the pilot system be carefully monitored by valid statistical methods, that the System be submitted to the Inter-Organization Board for review and comment and that a report thereon be circulated to delegations no later than 1 August 1980.

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The sponsor of the draft decision accepted the amendments orally proposed by the United States of America.

At its 51st meeting, on 19 November, the Fifth Committee, by 78 votes to 9, with 1 abstention, adopted the revised draft decision (see para. , draft resolution XI, sect. I).

International Computing Centre: budget estimates for 1980

The Committee considered this subject at its 54th meeting, on 20 November. During its consideration, it had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/19) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/34/7/Add.7).

At its 54th meeting, on 20 November, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend that the General Assembly approve the budget estimates for the International Computing Centre for 1980 (see para. , draft resolution XI, sect. II).

Improvements in the United Nations financial management systems

At the 54th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of the United States of America submitted the following draft decision (A/C.5/34/L.17):

"The General Assembly

"Requests the Secretary-General to give priority to the implementation of the recommendation of the Board of Auditors as endorsed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, calling for improvements in the United Nations financial management systems and especially to (a) strengthen the Controller's role so that he can provide functional leadership, guidance and central direction on all financial functions, (b) establish as soon as possible a systems group to deal exclusively with the over-all system of financial management and control and (c) produce the financial manual for which special funds have been provided."

At the same meeting, following discussion, the representative of the United States of America orally revised the draft decision to add, after "Secretary-General" the words "in implementing General Assembly resolution 33/10".

At its 54th meeting, on 20 November, the Fifth Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly that it should adopt the draft decision, as revised (see para. , draft resolution XI, sect. III).

Alteration, improvement and major maintenance of premises, United Nations Office at Geneva

The Committee considered this subject at its 53rd and 54th meetings, on 20 November, at which time it had for its consideration the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/23).

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The report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by the Chairman of that Committee at the 53rd meeting.

In its oral report, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the course of action proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 12 and 22 of his report (A/C.5/34/23) dealing, respectively, with the property "Les Feuillantines" and with the proposed transfer of United Nations property to the city of Geneva.

At the 54th meeting, the representative of Tunisia proposed that the Secretary-General be requested to report to the General Assembly in the context of the proposed programme budget for 1982-1983 on actions he will have taken to implement his proposals.

At its 54th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee approved the above proposals without a vote (see para. , draft resolution XI, sect. IV).

Staff training activities, regional commissions: training courses for translators/précis writers

At its 59th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee considered the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/33) on the revised estimates for staff training activities, regional commissions, as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/34/7/Add.10).

At its 59th meeting, on 27 November, at the proposal of the Chairman, the Fifth Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly that it should approve the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 6 of its report (A/34/7/Add.10) (see para. , draft resolution XI, sect V).

Compensation to members of commissions, committees or similar bodies in event of death, injury or illness attributable to service with the United Nations

The Committee considered this subject at its 57th meeting, on 23 November. For its consideration it had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/9) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/34/7/Add.8).

At the 57th meeting, on 23 November, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of document A/34/7/Add.8 (see para. , draft resolution XI, sect. VI).

First-class travel

At its 59th meeting, on 27 November 1979, the Committee considered the Secretary-General's report on first-class travel (A/C.5/34/39). At the same meeting, the Committee heard the oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions presented by the Chairman of that Committee.

At its 59th meeting, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/34/39 (see para. , draft resolution XI, sect. VII).

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Organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat

At its 59th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee considered the Secretary-General's report on this subject (A/C.5/34/32).

At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions presented the oral report of that Committee.

Also at its 59th meeting, the Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/34/32 (see para. , draft resolution XI, sect. VIII).

United Nations International School

The Committee considered this subject at its 66th, 69th and 71st meetings, on 30 November and 4 and 5 December. For its consideration it had before it the Secretary-General's report on this subject (A/C.5/34/36), as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/34/7/Add.11).

At the 69th meeting, the representative of the United States of America orally proposed the following draft decision:

"that the question of a financial grant to the United Nations International School be deferred until the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly and that the United Nations Board of Auditors be requested to examine the financial accounts of the School and its alleged deficit, bursary policies and building maintenance needs and to report thereon to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly".

At the 71st meeting, on 5 December, the representative of Tunisia proposed that the Committee vote separately on two parts of the proposal of the United States, viz.,

- (a) "that the question of a financial grant to the United Nations International School be deferred until the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly", and
- (b) "that the United Nations Board of Auditors be requested to examine the financial accounts of the School and its alleged deficit, bursary policies and building maintenance needs and to report thereon to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly".

The Committee rejected, by 48 votes to 19, with 23 abstentions, part (a) of the draft decision. The representative of Tunisia then proposed the following revision to part (b):

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"The General Assembly decides, simultaneously with granting the United Nations International School a subsidy of \$3,515,000, to request the Board of Auditors to examine the accounts of the School and to examine the accumulated deficit, bursary policies and building maintenance needs and to report thereon to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly."

Also at the 71st meeting, the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Sierra Leone proposed subamendments to the revision above, which were subsequently withdrawn.

At its 71st meeting, on 5 December, the Fifth Committee adopted the revised draft decision by 83 votes to none, with 8 abstentions (see para. , draft resolution XI, sect. IX).

Procedures for obtaining estimates and soliciting bids on United Nations construction projects

The Committee considered this subject at its 80th and 81st meetings, on 13 December, at which time it had before it the related reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/34 and Corr.1 and Add.1), as well as the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/34/7/Add.20).

At the 80th meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland proposed that amounts of \$15,599,700 for phase II of the Headquarters improvement plan and \$3,161,000 for phase III be appropriated in addition to those amounts already approved under the programme budgets for 1976-1977, 1978-1979 or included in the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981.

At the 81st meeting, the Committee approved, by 67 votes to 11, with 22 abstentions, an amount of \$18,760,700 under section 32 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981.

At the same meeting, the Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should adopt the recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 11 of A/34/7/Add.20 (see para. , draft resolution XI, sect. X).

United Nations accommodation at Nairobi

The Fifth Committee considered this subject at its 82nd meeting, on 14 December 1980. For its consideration the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/43) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/34/7/Add.21).

At the 82nd meeting, following a proposal by the Chairman, the Committee decided, by 85 votes to 8, to recommend that the General Assembly should approve the recommendations contained in paragraphs 6, 11 and 14 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/34/7/Add.21) (see para. , draft resolution XI, sect. XI).

At the same meeting, the Committee also approved an additional amount of \$1,916,000 under section 32.

The representative of Canada introduced a draft decision (A/C.5/34/L.45). The Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/34/L.45, without a vote (see para. , draft resolution XI, sect. XII).

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly

At its 85th meeting, on 18 December, the representative of Pakistan introduced a draft decision (A/C.5/34/L.47) which was orally revised by the addition in paragraph 1 of the words "the Chairman of" before "Advisory Committee".

At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/34/L.47 by 76 votes to 10, with 13 abstentions (see para. , draft resolution XI, sect. XIII).

Financing of the travel of representatives of the least developed countries to participate in the UNIDO consultation meetings

The Committee considered this subject in the context of its examination of the financial implications of the draft resolution previously adopted by the Fifth Committee (draft resolution IV), at its 86th and 87th meetings, on 18 December.

The representative of Tunisia proposed that the Committee recommend approval of an appropriation of \$100,000 under section 17 for the travel of 50 representatives of least developed countries to participate in consultation meetings. Following a debate during which several delegations made suggestions or proposals in this respect, the Committee, at the 87th meeting, approved the following recommendation by 65 votes to 12, with 11 abstentions:

"That the Committee recommend to the General Assembly that it approve an additional appropriation of \$100,000 under section 17 of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 for the travel of representatives of least developed countries to participate in UNIDO consultation meetings, it being understood that this constitutes an exception to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII)." (See para. , draft resolution XI, sect. XIV.)

Budgetary appropriations for travel expenses of United Nations staff

At the 87th meeting, on 18 December, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981,

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"Noting with concern the existing tendency to constant and substantial increase in the budgetary appropriations for the travel expenses of United Nations staff,

"1. Decides to reduce by \$1 million the budgetary appropriations for the travel expenses of United Nations staff recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the biennium 1980-1981;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to distribute this reduction among the sections of the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981."

At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the draft resolution by 54 votes to 13, with 27 abstentions.

V. DECISIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

At its 60th meeting, on 27 November 1979, the Fifth Committee decided to postpone to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly its consideration of the following subjects under agenda item 98:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive study of the question of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations. 5/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the services provided by the United Nations to activities funded from extrabudgetary resources. 6/

5/ A/C.5/33/54. For the report of the Advisory Committee, see A/33/7/Add.39.

6/ A/C.5/34/21.