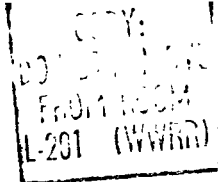


United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE
40th meeting
held on
Thursday, 8 November 1979
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 40th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PIRSON (Belgium)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

AGENDA ITEM 98: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1980-1981 (continued)

First reading (continued)

Section 29. Conference and library services (continued)

Income section 2. General income

AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS:

(f) APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS AND THREE ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/34/SR.40
20 November 1979
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 98: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIIUM 1980-1981 (continued)
(A/34/6, vol. II and Add.1; A/34/7; A/34/38, parts I to V; A/C.5/34/28; A/C.5/33/L.49;
A/C.5/34/L.9)

First reading (continued)

Section 29. Conference and library services (continued)

1. Mr. MASDOUKI (Morocco) said that, having listened carefully to the replies of the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services concerning Arabic language services, his delegation believed that it was highly desirable for the Secretary-General to communicate to the Committee the difficulties experienced in that area so that the members of the Committee could propose appropriate solutions.
2. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago) said that she did not wish to divert the attention of the Committee from the vital question of Arabic language services. However, it appeared from what had been said both in the Committee and outside of it that the problem went beyond Arabic language services alone. There was, it seemed, a general shortage of interpreters and translators. Her delegation wondered whether the problem did not, in fact, stem from the Organization's recruitment procedures.
3. It had been indicated, at least in respect of two working languages, that candidates for interpreters posts at the United Nations had to attend a school for interpreters. That requirement was a barrier for some owing to the high fees for attending such schools. Moreover, without entering into the question of geographical distribution, which, as had been indicated, did not apply to language posts, she wished to point out that in some developing countries, including her own, which had received diverse cultural inputs, there were a great many aspiring interpreters whose hopes had often been dashed. While it was necessary to maintain the high level of competency of United Nations language staff, there were grounds for wondering whether the Secretariat did not make it too difficult for people to be recruited. Lastly, while she understood that a special aptitude was needed for interpretation, she did not believe that it should be as difficult to recruit translators.
4. Mr. AL-TAKRITI (Iraq), referring to the statements made at the preceding meeting by the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services, said that the language institute established in Iraq for students from Arab countries, of which he was well aware, had been created by a governmental decree and was financed by the Government of Iraq for the purpose of training staff to serve in the language services of national and international organizations.
5. The Under-Secretary-General had stated that the decision not to translate the summary records into Arabic while the General Assembly was in session but rather during slack periods after the session had been taken with the concurrence of the Arab delegations themselves. However, that decision had not been expressly stated in any document. Moreover, according to usual practice, delegations adopted decisions

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(Mr. Al-Takriti, Iraq)

and left it to the Secretariat to work out the details for their implementation, trusting in its capability and goodwill. His delegation did not wish to interfere in matters within the purview of the Secretariat, but believed that the Secretariat had a duty to propose new arrangements. He appealed to the Secretariat to adopt clear measures so as to solve the problem once and for all.

6. With regard to paragraph 6 of the note by the Secretariat (A/C.5/34/L.9), he wished to ask once again, since the Director of the Budget Division had not directly replied to the question, what the cost of the translation services referred to in that paragraph would be if permanent staff were used instead of temporaries to translate into Arabic during the Assembly session the summary records of the Main Committees. He wished to know specifically whether a saving would result from the recruitment of permanent staff. The Director of the Budget Division had preferred not to address himself to that point at all and had instead referred members of the Committee to paragraph 6 of document A/C.5/34/L.9. In that connexion, the Director of the Budget Division had said that that paragraph contained an indication of the cost of the 45 temporary staff members who would be required if the Assembly decided that all summary records of the Main Committees were to be issued in Arabic during the session. He had carefully studied that paragraph and other documents, but had been unable to find the figure of 45 staff members mentioned by the Director of the Budget Division. He wondered whether an intentional error had been committed so as to confuse the Committee with imaginary figures. Accordingly, he wished to reiterate his question in the hope of obtaining a direct reply. In addition, in calculating the cost of permanent staff for translation and interpretation into Arabic, non-recurrent costs should not be taken into account, and information should be provided on the savings which would result from recruiting permanent staff to service the various conferences.

7. With regard to printing facilities, he had asked why the supplements to the official records of the General Assembly had not been issued in Arabic in the same format as for other reports. The Under-Secretary-General had indicated that printing facilities did not exist in New York for the Arabic language and that, if they did exist, the cost of printing would be very high. Owing to the time factor, it had not been possible to send the documents out for printing in Arab countries, where the cost would have been considerably less. He was surprised at that explanation and asked why the same was not true for documents in Chinese or Russian, and what arrangements were made to have documents printed in those languages.

8. The Secretariat should provide delegations with explanations in reply to all questions relating to Arabic language services, and should admit its own short-comings in that regard, which dated back six years. Arabic was an official language of the General Assembly and its Main Committees, and he called on the Secretariat to inform the Committee of the measures it had adopted to implement the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on that matter. In order to avoid any misunderstandings, he wished his comments and questions to be transcribed in writing for the Secretariat.

9. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division) said that he had mentioned the figure of 47 staff members, and not 45. The figure of 47 appeared in paragraph 6 of the

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(Mr. Begin)

original English version of document A/C.5/34/L.9. The statement by the representative of Iraq might be due to an error in the French version of that document, which mentioned seven typists rather than 20, which had resulted in a total of 34 rather than 47.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that he was convinced that the Secretariat officials were making an honest effort to reply to all questions and he appealed to representatives to refrain from making emotional statements. He also called on the Secretariat to make a special effort, taking into account the difficulty of the questions asked.

11. Mr. WILLIAMS (Panama) said that in three meetings members had heard no convincing replies to their questions concerning the distribution of documents in general and the problems of the Arabic language services in particular. In administrative matters it could always be assumed that if machinery was not working well there was some element which was not performing properly. Since the Administrative Management Service and the Joint Inspection Unit had confirmed that the core staff of the Department of Conference Services were doing their job satisfactorily, the logical conclusion was that the top level of the Department was not functioning as it should.

12. With regard to the question of the job action, he wished it to be noted that, at a meeting of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization held at Geneva after the job action, at which the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services had been present, it had been said that the members of the Fifth Committee were responsible for that action, because they were members of missions without sufficient powers and had not received the necessary instructions. However, that was not a serious argument since many ambassadors, ministers and advisers had taken part in the Fifth Committee's work, together with a number of first, second and third secretaries and counsellors.

13. As far as contracting staff for conference servicing was concerned, he believed that the United Nations should support such bodies as the Bourguiba Institute, which was doing outstanding work in training language staff. He felt also that interpreters and translators should be hired in the countries where conferences away from headquarters were held; for a conference held in Buenos Aires, interpreters and translators had been brought down from New York while, in Argentina and other Latin American countries, there had been staff sufficiently qualified to carry out those functions.

14. The budget for the Department of Conference Services was \$183 million, a sum greater than the budget of many developing countries. That should enable the necessary measures to be taken during the current session so as to solve, finally, the problem of the Arabic translation services.

15. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia), referring to the question of introducing specific programmes for interpreter training in co-operation with the Bourguiba Institute mentioned in the statement by the Under-Secretary-General, said that that Institute was held in high esteem around the world for its language teaching; in addition to training Arabic language teachers, it also taught other languages such as Chinese,

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(Mr. Avadhi, Tunisia)

Spanish, English, Japanese and Russian; it paid special attention to linguistics, held international courses with the participation of European organizations and universities, and organized special courses in translation and communication. The Institute was willing to accept students from Member States who wished to receive training in the sphere of translation and interpretation.

16. Mr. KHAMIS (Algeria) said that, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Arabic language should enjoy the same status as the other official languages of the United Nations in the General Assembly and Main Committees. Once the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly had approved the budget, the Secretariat must make all possible efforts to obtain optimum results. His delegation did not doubt the competence, good faith and integrity of the staff of the Department of Conference Services and expressed the conviction that, if the Secretary-General considered a specific problem existed with regard to that Department, the Fifth Committee would be prepared to consider it and take any necessary measures to resolve it.

17. Mr. OUDOVENKO (Department of Conference Services) informed the Committee that the Department would prepare written replies to the questions asked and issue them as a session document no later than Tuesday, 13 November. Nevertheless, he wished to clarify certain points at the current meeting. The Secretariat had so far been able to provide Arabic interpretation services to all meetings of United Nations bodies, whether at Headquarters or elsewhere. At some meetings of UNCTAD in Geneva, however, it had not proved possible to provide interpretation into Arabic because some conference rooms did not have the installations for interpretation in six languages. The Secretariat was arranging to purchase portable booths in order to solve the problem.

18. With regard to the questions asked by the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, he stated that the Department of Conference Services did not apply the principle of equitable distribution in hiring language staff, but proceeded solely on the basis of candidates' ability. Both interpreters and translators had to pass very demanding examinations, but it was not absolutely essential for them to hold a qualification from a special training institute. In fact, most of the staff of the department had received other kinds of education which complemented their linguistic talents. As a point of interest, it should be noted that there were about 1,500 interpreters around the world. The tasks of translators and interpreters were different, but it was impossible to determine which were the more difficult. The Department of Conference Services was interested in broadening the geographical base of its personnel, and although it already had staff from Haiti, Jamaica, Morocco, Tunisia and Viet Nam, among other developing countries, it was making efforts to publicize the examinations around the world. Frequently, the job of hiring staff was hampered by a lack of funds for travel in connexion with examinations.

19. Replying to the comment by the representative of Panama, he pointed out that, at the conference referred to, it had been necessary to use staff from New York and Geneva because the simultaneous holding of various meetings and conferences had made it impossible to obtain enough local staff. In general, the Secretariat tried to use local staff for meetings held away from Headquarters, especially in Latin American countries.

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20. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that his delegation had great respect for the conference services, which were more widely available than any other service in the Organization and had no equal anywhere in the world. There was not, therefore, any conflict between the Committee and Conference Services, but rather an interchange of opinions.

21. In his delegation's view, the problem of Arabic had been considered from a passive angle. The important thing was to develop a strategy for dealing with a problem which had been becoming worse for several years. The question of the Arabic language services could perhaps be included as an item or subitem on the agenda of the thirty-fifth session, so that all the difficulties could finally be overcome. It was gratifying to observe that the resistance to the presence of Arabic in the United Nations was diminishing, and people were starting to accept that it was a part of the system whose viability the international community should preserve.

22. Frequent allusions had been made to the scarcity of Arabic interpreters. His delegation believed that the market for free-lance Arabic interpreters might be quite as large as that for interpreters in other languages, but that the Arabic specialists did not have sufficient incentive to work. It was important to them that Arabic should receive the same treatment as the other languages in the United Nations, so that they would have job security. There were also sources of Arabic translators which had not been explored. The United Nations could, for example, contact institutions and universities, including European and North American ones, where there were people with an extensive knowledge of Arabic although they were not nationals of Arab countries. But such partial solutions could only make sense within an over-all strategy. The Secretariat should propose such a strategy for reorganizing the Arabic service and seek a final solution, so that there would be no more complaints.

23. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the information provided by the representative of the Secretary-General to the effect that there were only 1,500 interpreters in the world was very interesting and might induce Governments to take measures to alleviate the scarcity of staff. It was most gratifying that the recruitment of interpreters in the United Nations was based solely on an examination in which the candidate had to demonstrate his personal ability and that it was not essential for him to hold a certificate from any given institution. Thus all candidates were in the same situation. It was to be hoped that in no case would the possession of a certificate from a specialized institution be an implicit prerequisite. She reiterated that her delegation felt that the high level of services currently provided by the interpreters should not be lowered for any reason whatsoever. Nor did she believe that interpreters should be recruited on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, although it was gratifying to note that there were staff members from various developing countries in the interpretation and translation services. In order to be able to draw conclusions, she wished to know the exact number of translators and interpreters in the United Nations.

24. It would be useful to know the frequency with which examinations were held in New York and away from Headquarters. Apparently, there was a crisis in the

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(Mrs. Dorset, Trinidad and Tobago)

recruitment of Professional staff members in the Department of Conference Services and Governments might well be in a position to assist in resolving it. Finally, she observed that all delegations which had sometimes had to await the publication of the translation of a document appreciated the existence of simultaneous interpretation which permitted them to keep abreast of the debates.

25. Mr. AL-MASHAR (Oman) said that his delegation had listened with interest to the explanation by the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services on the problems encountered in providing Arabic language services to the General Assembly and its Main Committees. Nevertheless, he believed that in the five years since the adoption of resolution 3190 (XXVIII), in which the General Assembly had decided to include Arabic among its working languages, it should have been possible to find solutions to those problems. What the Arabic-speaking delegations wished was to be given the same treatment as delegations using the other official languages. Many delegations of Arab countries were small and they had serious problems in following the debates in the various Committees owing to the absence of summary records. He could not accept the argument that summary records were of little value and he thought that the Secretariat should be able to provide translations of those records before the end of the session.

26. The delegations of the Arab countries would do everything possible to assist the Secretariat in overcoming the problems of the Arabic language services. Those problems were not marginal ones but were related to a fundamental element of the work of the United Nations. His delegation was convinced that the Secretariat could submit proposals to eliminate those problems once and for all and to establish a solid basis for the development of Arabic language services.

27. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) observed that in section 29.14 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/34/7), it was stated that part of the supplementary resources for conference servicing approved by the General Assembly at its thirty-second and thirty-third sessions would not have been required but for the need to service special conferences. In that connexion, he asked whether the practice of allocating supplementary resources to special conferences had also been applied in the past and, if so, whether it had been limited exclusively to that type of conference.

28. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division) explained that the supernumerary staff mentioned in section 29 were intended for heavy workload periods during the General Assembly and special conferences. In order to calculate the number required, first an initial evaluation was made at the time of the preparation of the programme budget, based on a probable work time-table, and then, when the calendar of conferences was known, a new estimate was made and revised figures were submitted on the basis of the complete evaluation.

29. Mr. OUDOVENKO (Department of Conference Services) said that in his duties he was in charge of only one division of the Department and, in order to reply to all the questions asked by delegations, he would have to consult those responsible for the other divisions. With regard to the Arabic language services, it should be borne in mind that Arabic was a new official language and, despite the co-operation of the Office of Personnel Services, it had not been possible to recruit quickly

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(Mr. Oudovenko)

all the staff needed. In addition, caution had to be exercised to avoid not having sufficient work for all the Arabic interpreters at certain periods, a situation which would give rise to criticisms based on the General Assembly resolution on overprogramming. In recruiting, priority was given to the Arabic services, even though the problem of the lack of staff affected all languages. It should be pointed out that while delegations were completely understanding when there were no rooms available for meetings, they did not appear to be able to accept the fact that there were no interpreters available.

30. The attitude of Governments which had established or intended to establish schools for language staff was commendable. The Secretariat had been in contact with the Bourguiba Institute in Tunis and with representatives of the Baghdad Institute in order to assist them in their organization, and it was to be hoped that within a few years the problem would be solved and the United Nations would be able to recruit the necessary number of qualified interpreters.

31. In the examinations for the recruitment of language staff, two separate systems were used for interpreters and translators. The details would be provided in writing, but, in general, the examinations for interpreters were organized as soon as possible after applications were received because there were vacancies in all languages. The examinations for translators were held periodically and were widely advertised in the press of the countries of the languages concerned.

32. The Department of Conference Services had 28 staff members from Africa, including two from Algeria, 23 from Egypt, one from Morocco, one from the Sudan and one from Tunisia, and 73 staff members from Latin America and the Caribbean. Among the Geneva language staff, the proportion was similar. It should be made clear that, while language staff were not required to hold a certificate from a school of interpretation or translation, it was essential that they should have a university degree because all the Professional staff of the United Nations must be properly qualified. The Department of Conference Services would be happy to assist all interested delegations in formulating proposals to solve the problems discussed.

33. Mrs. DORSET (Trinidad and Tobago) thanked the Secretariat for the information provided and explained that she had not requested a breakdown by nationality because that might cause concern among delegations.

34. Mr. AL-TAKRITI (Iraq) asked for the co-operation of the Director of the Budget Division in clearing up the misunderstanding that had arisen in connexion with his question on the costs of permanent staff and supernumerary staff in the Arabic language services. Paragraph 11 of document A/C.5/33/L.49 referred to an additional complement of 27 short-term staff. In the reply given at the previous meeting by the Director of the Budget Division, no comparison had been made on the basis of the data in the document mentioned and a figure of 45 staff had been indicated. That figure did not appear in document A/C.5/33/L.49 and would only be the result of adding 20 staff to the Printing Section.

35. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the delegation of Iraq and the Budget Division should consult with each other. He announced that the debate on section 29 would

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continue on Friday of the following week when the replies by the Secretariat to the questions asked by delegations had been circulated.

Income section 2. General income

36. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee under income section 2 resulted from the recommendations it had made concerning expenditure section 28. The explanation of the decision reached by the Advisory Committee was to be found in paragraphs IS2.12 to IS2.15 of its report (A/34/7).

37. In paragraph 28.137 of its report, the Advisory Committee had recommended that, in view of the tentative nature of the estimates, the amount to be included at the current stage under section 28.M should be equivalent to the 1978-1979 appropriations, as adjusted. In paragraph IS2.12 the Advisory Committee was recommending that a similar approach be taken to the related estimate of income, with a consequential reduction of \$7,619,500.

38. With regard to section 28.L, the Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of the estimate for the Joint Inspection Unit (A/34/7, para. 28.127). The Secretary-General's estimate for 1980-1981 for the reimbursement by the specialized agencies of their share of the costs of JIU was based on the estimate for the Unit as included in section 28.L. In view of the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 28.127 of its report, it would be necessary to reduce the Secretary-General's estimate of income under that heading by \$27,600.

39. The CHAIRMAN, replying to a question by Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia) said that the Committee should take income section 2 as a whole rather than consider each of the 11 items separately, which would probably be a waste of time.

40. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia), referring to reimbursement for services rendered to specialized agencies and others (A/34/7, para. IS2.5), said that he would like to know why the estimates for Headquarters, New York, and, especially, the United Nations Office at Geneva had decreased. That decrease was all the more surprising because the workload of the specialized agencies, like that of Headquarters, was constantly increasing.

41. He would also like to know more about the special accounts from which funds were obtained for expenditure incurred in providing services to particular institutions. He would like to know what decisions governed the opening of such accounts and what advantages they had over the regular budget.

42. In connexion with the rental of housing accommodation in Geneva, the Advisory Committee stated in its report (A/34/7, para. IS2.3) that it understood from the statements of representatives of the Secretary-General that the increased level of rent to be charged had not yet been established. When the matter had been discussed by the Fifth Committee at the previous session, his delegation had supported the proposal concerning the residences in question. It thought that the rental should be in keeping with the amenities of the accommodation and he would therefore like to know when the rent could be reviewed.

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(Mr. Ayadhi, Tunisia)

43. With regard to income from television and similar services, he asked what was the approximate income received from television programmes supplied to Member States or to other organizations.

44. Mr. PAPENDORF (United States of America) associated himself with the Tunisian representative's question regarding the rental of housing accommodation in Geneva.

45. Mr. RUEDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services), replying to the question of the representatives of Tunisia and the United States, stated that the rental of the Villa "La Fenêtre" was not included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 because the Villa had only been occupied since the previous week, or even the present week. However, he stated that the rent paid by the previous tenant of the Villa "Les Feuillantines" had risen sharply when he had moved to the Villa "La Fenêtre". The rent would be reviewed periodically, as it had been for the past 30 years.

46. Mr. DE FACQ (Belgium) pointed out that paragraph 16.8 of the Advisory Committee's report on the International Trade Centre covered the Centre's present accommodation and its new premises in the Rue Mont Brillant. In connexion with the latter, there was an item of \$195,500 as income from subrental and \$53,900 as income from parking. He asked whether those amounts had been deducted in the proposed programme budget or whether they were included in the income section. With regard to the last-mentioned figure, he noted that the parking places cost the United Nations \$110,800 and asked whether there were some parking places which had not been rented.

47. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand), referring to income section 2.A (Income from rental of premises) pointed out that in the English text of table 2.3 the figures on the third line (ECA, Addis Ababa) should be \$225,000 and \$208,000 instead of \$630,000 and \$100,000. He also thought that the table should include Vienna; the previous year the Advisory Committee had indicated that there would be two and a half floors available in the new International Centre in Vienna for future expansion and his delegation had hoped that there would be some income from rental of that space.

48. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that the income from services rendered by the New York Computing Centre was less for 1980-1981 than for 1978-1979 and asked if that meant that the number of users of the Centre had declined. He also asked the Secretariat to tell the Committee about the present arrangements for the sale of used United Nations equipment.

49. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) said that he assumed that whatever decision was taken with respect to the matter raised in paragraph IS2.15 of the Advisory Committee's report would depend on the decision taken concerning paragraph 28.127 of that report.

50. The CHAIRMAN said that it was stated in paragraph 2.5 of income section 2 (A/34/6, vol. II) that the estimated income of \$420,000 related to interest paid by certain banks on balances in United Nations checking and savings accounts and was based on actual income earned in 1976-1977 and 1978. Since interest rates had risen considerably, the financial services should try to obtain somewhat more favourable rates.

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51. Mr. RUEDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services) said that the interest rates which the Chairman had mentioned referred to other countries as well as the United States. He shared the Chairman's view and said that the financial services would continue to do their best to find better rates.

52. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) shared the Chairman's surprise at the low rate of bank interest estimated in income section 2. He would like to know how much interest would be earned if Member States paid their contributions at the beginning of each year, as provided in the Financial Regulations and Financial Rules.

53. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia) said it was strange that miscellaneous income had fallen by almost half as compared with 1978-1979, since one consequence of inflation was that all budgetary amounts tended to increase. He asked what items were included under the heading "Miscellaneous income".

AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS:

(f) APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS AND THREE ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE (A/34/266; A/C.5/34/24)

54. The CHAIRMAN said that the General Assembly had to elect three members and three alternate members to the Committee to serve for a period of three years from 1 January 1980. In A/C.5/34/24 the Secretary-General reported that the following persons had been nominated by their respective Governments for appointment: Mr. Enrique Buj-Flores (Mexico); Mr. Ernesto Garrido (Philippines); Mr. Sol Kuttner (United States of America); Mr. Mario Majoli (Italy); Mr. Michael G. Okeyo (Kenya); and Mr. Rudolf Schmidt (Federal Republic of Germany). Paragraph 16 of document A/34/250 on the organization of the session recommended that the practice of dispensing with the secret ballot for elections to subsidiary organs when the number of candidates corresponded to the number of seats to be filled should become standard, unless a delegation specifically requested a vote. In the present case, although the number of candidates corresponded to the number of seats to be filled, it would normally be necessary to vote on which of the candidates should be members and which should be alternate members of the Pension Committee. However, the candidates themselves had expressed the wish that Mr. Garrido, Mr. Kuttner and Mr. Majoli should be elected members and Mr. Buj-Flores, Mr. Okeyo and Mr. Schmidt should be elected alternate members. Accordingly, if there was no objection, he would assume that the Committee wished to dispense with the secret ballot.

55. It was so decided.

56. The CHAIRMAN said that if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to recommend to the General Assembly that it should appoint Mr. Ernesto Garrido, Mr. Sol Kuttner and Mr. Mario Majoli members of the Pension Committee, and Mr. Enrique Buj-Flores, Mr. Michael G. Okeyo and Mr. Rudolf Schmidt alternate members.

57. It was so decided.

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58. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines), speaking for all those who had been elected, thanked the Committee for its unanimous nomination and its demonstration of confidence in the work which had been done in the past; he assured the Committee that, in discharging their task, the members would be ever mindful of the interests of all participants in the Fund.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.