



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 59th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BUJ-FLORES (Mexico)

later: Mr. PIRSON (Belgium)

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

CONTENTS

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

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

Organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat

Revised estimates under section 28 J.3: Staff training activities (regional commissions)

AGENDA ITEM 97: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

First-class travel in the United Nations organizations

AGENDA ITEM 100: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (continued)

Feasibility of establishing a single administrative tribunal (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 104: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) Other personnel questions: reports of the Secretary-General (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 105: REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (continued)

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

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

Identification of activities that are completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective (A/C.5/34/4 and Corr.1; A/34/7/Add.1)

1. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) said that over a number of years his delegation had demonstrated a particular interest in the question of activities that were completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. It regretted that that issue, which was important at both theoretical and practical levels, was being considered so late in the session, and hoped that in future it would be taken up earlier.
2. Four years earlier his delegation had drawn attention to the need for the United Nations to have workable mechanisms for identifying obsolete programmes and for financing the new activities out of the resources thereby released. At Poland's initiative the Assembly had adopted, at its thirtieth session, resolution 3534 (XXX), in which the Secretary-General had been requested to submit to the Assembly, at its thirty-first session, information on programmes, projects or activities which had already been completed or were nearly completed, or which were considered by the appropriate intergovernmental bodies as obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. The Secretary-General had been further requested to include in that information specific examples of steps taken towards the internal redeployment of resources within the Secretariat and to include in future programme budgets information relating to the anticipated duration of all new programmes, projects or activities. Lastly, the decision had been taken to include in the performance reports on the programme budgets relevant information on the staff and resources released as a result of the completion, reduction, reorganization, merging, elimination or otherwise of programmes, projects or activities. The following year, in resolution 31/93, the Assembly had reaffirmed its resolution 3534 (XXX) and had stressed the Secretary-General's responsibility in that regard.
3. The Secretariat had apparently experienced difficulties in implementing those resolutions, largely because some staff members resented having to indicate the obsolete programmes. In its resolutions 32/201 and 33/204, the Assembly had drawn the Secretary-General's attention to the previous resolutions. He wondered what action had been taken in pursuance of those various resolutions.
4. The importance of that question appeared to be recognized by all, as evidenced by the majority of statements made during the general debate on the programme budget for 1980-1981. The Secretary-General himself had emphasized in his report on the work of the Organization (A/34/1) - and had reaffirmed in his statement before the Fifth Committee on 3 October 1979 - that the budgetary proposals contained many instances where resources had been redeployed so that a significant number of new activities were expected to be financed out of the resources released as a result of the completion or discontinuation of old activities. Further steps would follow through strengthening and enlarging the programme monitoring system.

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(Mr. Abraszewski, Poland)

5. The Secretary-General, in his report on the identification of activities that were completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective (A/C.5/34/4 and Corr.1), had proposed, pursuant to the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), measures for the creation of a system for monitoring and evaluating programme performance at the programme element level, and for reporting thereon. Those measures were intended to be implemented in three stages.

6. The first stage provided for the establishment of a system for identifying, at the stage of preparing the budget estimates, the resources required for each programme element. It might be noted that the programme budget for 1980-1981 contained the estimates of expenditure established at the programme element level, but that the application of that new system was as yet limited to the economic, social and humanitarian sectors.

7. In the second stage, the programme managers were required, in the course of preparing programme budget proposals, to make the value judgements needed to identify activities that were completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. To that end, the Office of Financial Services had requested analytical information, at the programme element level, on the evolution of each subprogramme over the period of two biennia.

8. The third stage provided for the introduction of a process of monitoring, on the basis of internal work programmes in each division or section, and of systematic reporting on programme and budget implementation. In document A/C.5/34/4, paragraph 8, the Secretary-General indicated that that had not yet been carried out, and gave no details as to the expected operation of the monitoring of programme budget implementation, which was a crucial element of General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX) and subsequent resolutions. In another report, on the establishment of internal work programmes and procedures for reporting on programme implementation (A/C.5/34/3), the Secretary-General confined himself to describing the "programme element information sheet" and the "implementation schedule", and shed no more light on the process of monitoring programme budget implementation. Lastly, in document A/C.5/34/6, on the implementation of the JIU's recommendations, the Secretary-General stated that the development of the programme element information sheet as a basis for the programme budget formulation was a first step, and that the implementation schedule of the information sheet would then be converted to internal work plans for each programme element. It could thus be concluded that the monitoring of programme budget evaluation was at an early stage of development.

9. With regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX) and subsequent resolutions, the Secretary-General had affirmed for the second consecutive year that steps would be taken to create an organized body of information which would serve the purposes of monitoring and evaluating programme performance at the divisional level and of reporting thereon to departmental and central management levels, as well as to the competent intergovernmental bodies (A/C.5/34/3, para.1). His delegation essentially agreed with that position, but felt that the body of information should take into account not only professional

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(Mr. Abraszewski, Poland)

but also General Service resources and should be extended to the redeployment of resources throughout the United Nations system. It also wished to know when the third stage would be implemented and when the monitoring and evaluation of programme performance would become operational.

10. An internal evaluation unit had been established in the Programme Planning and Co-ordination Office in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Furthermore, in document A/C.5/34/6, paragraph 23, the Secretary-General had indicated that a standing high-level Steering Committee had been established to ensure effective and continuing support of evaluation at all management levels. He wondered whether there was any relationship between those measures and the identification of completed and obsolete activities.

11. In more general terms, his delegation wondered whether the measures outlined by the Secretary-General were sufficient for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX) and subsequent resolutions. He felt justified in asking whether it would be possible to set up a system that would somehow automatically indicate completed and obsolete activities without making value judgements, which, as currently envisaged, should not be made until the second stage.

12. More specifically, he wished to know what volume of resources had been released so far as a result of the completion or termination of programme elements. It appeared that the major part of those resources had been released as a result of the first of those two factors. While it might be too soon to pass judgement on that matter, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had assessed the results achieved so far in that field as extremely modest, and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC), for its part, had considered that the information in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/4 and Corr.1) was clearly inadequate. Similar views had been expressed by several Member States during the current session.

13. In paragraph 10 of its second report (A/34/7/Add.1), the Advisory Committee had called on the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to identify and eliminate activities that were obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, and to make appropriate proposals as soon as possible to the competent intergovernmental organs. It was curious that the Advisory Committee, apparently taking a somewhat neutral position, had offered no hint as to how the Secretary-General should intensify his efforts. His delegation, while recognizing the competence of CPC in the programme area, maintained that it was within the purview of the Advisory Committee to advise the Fifth Committee on the methods for identifying completed and obsolete activities. In that area, both organs should co-operate.

14. The review and approval of programme budgets and medium-term plans offered the best opportunity for the Secretariat to indicate to the intergovernmental bodies the activities which had been completed or were obsolete, so that the appropriate decisions could be taken. That should be a continuous process. Programme budgets and medium-term plans should be viewed as indicators of outputs

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(Mr. Abraszewski, Poland)

and as setting the level of resources available for implementing particular programmes. During programme budget implementation, the programme manager might conceivably conclude that certain programme elements became relatively less effective and less useful than the others, and thus should be terminated.

15. The importance of the Organization's performance reports was underestimated, notwithstanding General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX), which specifically called for information on the staff and resources released. Consequently, his delegation looked forward to receiving the performance report for the current biennium, but hoped that, unlike in previous years, it would not be submitted so close to the end of the session that no possibility was left for any meaningful discussion.

16. In paragraphs 28 to 31 of his report (A/C.5/34/4), the Secretary-General drew attention to several conceptual and procedural difficulties which he had encountered in the implementation of resolution 3534 (XXX), optimistically adding that they were of a transitory nature. The programme monitoring system should normally smooth out such conceptual difficulties to a large extent. Procedural difficulties stemmed from departments' and offices' refusal or inability to provide the information requested. It seemed that there was also a kind of psychological barrier preventing programme managers from indicating activities in their departments which had become obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. He wondered whether that might be because the wording of resolution 3534 (XXX) was too categorical.

17. Programme managers must therefore be encouraged to indicate the activities which had been completed or had ceased to be useful; the comments of the Secretary-General's representative in that regard would be most interesting.

18. In his delegation's view, the problem of identifying completed and outdated activities was nowhere near being solved. It would therefore be desirable to prepare a draft resolution, before the end of the discussion, requesting the Secretary-General to indicate to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its 1980 session all activities which had been completed or which, in his view, were obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective and to indicate what resources had been liberated and, where applicable, redeployed. The General Assembly would be apprised of the facts in the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Secretary-General's performance report on the programme budget, on the understanding that it would also be desirable for the Secretary-General to present the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session with a comprehensive report on the implementation of resolution 3534 (XXX), setting out the results achieved, the problems encountered and the action which he recommended. That report, together with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, should constitute a solid basis for discussion by the Fifth Committee.

19. His delegation would spare no effort, in co-operation with all interested delegations, to assist the Secretariat to implement fully General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX) and subsequent resolutions.

20. Mr. Pirson (Belgium) took the Chair.

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21. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/4) represented the first attempt to follow up resolution 33/204 concerning the identification of activities which had been completed or were obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. Nevertheless, a clearer and more far-reaching report would certainly have been of more interest for both Member States and programme managers. Subsequent reports of that type should provide further details on the costs of completed, obsolete, marginal or ineffective activities and how the Secretariat hoped to recycle the resources released. They should extend beyond the economic and social sectors, permitting a better assessment of the positive impact of recycling resources on the delivery of programmes of great importance to Member States; the latter could then introduce new programmes, which could be carried out within reasonable budgetary levels.

22. Mr. MASDOUKI (Morocco) pointed out that the identification of activities that were completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective had so far been the subject of four General Assembly resolutions. In his report (A/C.5/34/4) the Secretary-General indicated the steps taken in that area during the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 and set forth the three stages for the introduction of the new system. Table 2 of the report showed that 18 programme elements from 11 programmes in the economic and social sectors of the proposed programme budget had been eliminated as activities which were obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective; that was more than 1 per cent of all programme elements in the activities of those sectors. But his delegation wondered on what basis the elimination had taken place since, in paragraph 20 of his report, the Secretary-General stated that it had not been possible to work out specific criteria for identifying programme elements to be terminated. It also had some difficulty in comprehending the scope of the criterion proposed in paragraph 20 (b): "programme elements which were programmed as new elements in the budget for the previous biennium but not commenced in that biennium without any valid justification". The report of the Secretary-General did not, in fact, seem to go sufficiently deeply into the matter or provide all the required details. His delegation was nevertheless sure that the Secretary-General would do all in his power, with the help of Member States, to correct that fault in his subsequent reports on the matter.

23. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) emphasized the importance which his delegation had long attached to the identification of activities which were completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. Since the General Assembly had already devoted four resolutions to the matter, he was surprised to read in paragraph 20 of the Secretary-General's report that "the formulation of a preliminary set of criteria for application in the preparation of the 1982-1983 programme budget seems feasible"; admittedly, "better late than never"! He also found it surprising that, according to table 1 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/4), eight of the 17 departments or offices in the economic, social and humanitarian sectors had not communicated the information requested on the establishment of internal work programmes.

24. Mr. KUYAMA (Japan) observed that, since the General Assembly's first resolution on the identification of completed, obsolete, marginal or ineffective

(Mr. Kuyama, Japan)

programmes had been adopted four years previously, the results had been slow in coming, but the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/4) was all the more welcome for that; despite the inadequacy of the information provided, it was the Secretariat's first attempt to respond to the wishes of Member States in that sphere. His delegation felt it would be desirable to introduce a kind of division of labour between the Secretariat and the legislative bodies, in accordance with which the Secretariat would identify completed, obsolete, marginal or ineffective activities while the legislative bodies would decide whether such activities truly belonged in the categories to which they had been assigned. The United Nations had to begin to plan its activities and programmes within a limited budget, and the identification of completed, obsolete, marginal or ineffective activities thus became of prime importance; his delegation expected the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts in that sphere in the future.

25. Mr. GOSS (Australia) said that the elimination of completed, obsolete, ineffective or marginally useful activities was rather a management responsibility of the Secretariat than a subject for debate in the Fifth Committee. His delegation would support the draft resolution shortly to be submitted on the matter but doubted, in view of past performance, whether much would come of it. It remained convinced that during the preparation of each biennial programme budget, each programme manager should be mandated to identify the 10 per cent of activities under his or her responsibility which were of lowest priority, and to assess the consequences of abandoning them. That percentage of activities would be eliminated unless a special case could be made for maintaining the programme in its entirety. His delegation intended to develop the idea into a proposal and submit it at the following session of the General Assembly.

26. Mr. EL-HOUDERI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation attached great importance to the identification of activities that were completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, which should lead to the better use of resources. The current system was highly complex and required several interrelated measures whereby it would be possible to identify such activities clearly and to establish how to use the resources released. His delegation felt that the action taken by the Secretary-General was still inadequate, although it represented a first step. So far completed activities had not been clearly identified - and no completion date had been set for a large number of programmes. In his report the Secretary-General had not provided enough information on the activities considered to have been completed or to be obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, and the identification of such activities could not but be difficult in such conditions, especially as programme results could not be used as a basis, there being no uniform method followed by programme managers in assessing programme performance. The result had been that completed or obsolete activities had been maintained for the period 1978-1979, and resources which could have been redeployed for activities to be carried out in 1980-1981 had been blocked. It appeared from table 1 of the Secretary-General's report that for more than 50 per cent of the sections in the budget, information on the identification of programmes which were completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective had not been available when the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 was being prepared.

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(Mr. El-Houderi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

27. All things considered, his delegation felt that it would be premature to express a firm opinion as to the usefulness of the exercise, but it would favour the adoption of any practical measure seeking to make the exercise more comprehensive and to provide Member States with a clearer assessment of activities which were completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective.

28. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia) pointed out that the main purpose of the General Assembly resolutions on the identification of activities that were completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective, was to provide the Organization with a system for monitoring and evaluating programme performance at the programme level. Implementation of those resolutions requires the precisest possible definition of each category of activities, since completed activities could not be placed on the same footing as those that were obsolete or of marginal usefulness. The easiest task would appear to be the identification of completed activities, but even for that purpose objective criteria had to be established to ensure that they had, in fact, been completed. His delegation was disturbed at the inclination to put pressure on the Secretariat automatically to identify 5 to 10 per cent of activities each year as being obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. The Organization must be equipped with a system for monitoring and evaluation but, above all, it had to define objective criteria for the identification of the activities in question.

29. In reaching a final judgement on such activities, a clear distinction had to be drawn between activities that were completed and those that were obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective. In the case of the first, it would suffice to fix a deadline for completion; it would then be an easy matter to attribute responsibility in cases where the deadline was not met. For the second, the prior opinion of the legislative bodies was necessary.

30. His delegation believed that there was still a long way to go in reaching the fundamental goal. The conclusions of the report of the Advisory Committee clearly demonstrated that the problems encompassed as much the ability to make the necessary identification, as the level at which it should be made, and the definition of the objective criteria to be used.

31. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his delegation, which had supported all the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the subject under consideration, believed, like the representative of Poland, that the process of identifying activities that were completed, obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective should be pursued, and agreed with the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya that that process should be exhaustive. It also agreed with the Advisory Committee's comment (A/34/7/Add.1, para. 3) on improved monitoring of the use of resources, and hoped that the Secretary-General would be in a position to submit a more comprehensive and accurate report on the resources released through both the completion and termination of programme elements. In addition, more attention should be paid to the procedure for establishing the order of priority of activities and to its amendment, where necessary, as circumstances changed. He would like some clarification from the Secretariat on the methods used in

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(Mr. Garrido, Philippines)

that respect. It was also important that, from time to time, programme managers should re-evaluate programmes that had been deemed to be of marginal usefulness.

32. He was surprised that table 1 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/4), dealing with the completion of internal work programmes, gave no information on UNEP or Habitat. Finally, in connexion with the comment made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 7 of its report (A/34/7/Add.1) that the total volume of resources released through the termination of programme elements would be larger than had been indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/4), he would like confirmation from the Secretariat whether that was in fact the case and, if so, an indication of which programme elements could be absorbed thanks to the released resources.

Organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat (A/C.5/34/32)

33. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/32) set out the results of the work of the working group which had been set up to proceed with the reforms in organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat. For the reasons explained by the Secretary-General, the final report on the matter would be submitted at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. In the meantime, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should take note of the report.

34. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/32) on organizational nomenclature in the Secretariat.

35. The Chairman's suggestion was adopted.

Revised estimates under section 28J.3: Staff training activities (regional commissions) (A/34/7/Add.10; A/C.5/34/33)

36. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of members of the Committee to the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 6 and 7 of its report (A/34/7/Add.10).

37. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions) confirmed that the Advisory Committee was recommending that the General Assembly should approve the appropriation of \$362,300 requested by the Secretary-General for the conduct of two more training courses in 1980-1981, together with an appropriation of \$35,300 under section 31 (staff assessment), to be offset by an increase in the same amount under income section 1.

38. The CHAIRMAN, noting the size of the appropriation requested in relation to the number of trainees involved in the training courses, said that he had discussed the matter with some of those responsible for the programme and, in his opinion, the Secretariat had done its best; that was why the Advisory Committee was recommending approval of the appropriation requested.

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39. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) said that his delegation supported what was unquestionably a useful programme. It could not, however, fail to note that out of 14 candidates initially selected only eight had been selected for intensive instruction and only two had passed the competitive examination, which meant that it had been necessary to spend \$152,100 to recruit two translators. His delegation hoped that the Secretariat would do everything it could to ensure that the results of the next examination were more satisfactory, without of course lowering the standards of the examination. It might be necessary to pay greater attention to the recruitment procedures and to ensure better supervision of the training courses. Since it was a United Nations examination, he assumed that the candidates selected would be free to work elsewhere after having spent a certain time at the Economic Commission for Africa; however, it would be a pity if they spent only two years at Addis Ababa.

40. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia) said that, while his delegation approved of the translators' training programme for ECA, it would like some clarifications. In particular, he would like to know what type of training was given, namely whether it was specifically designed to provide ECA with suitable staff, or whether it was general training which would enable candidates to work in any part of the United Nations. Reference was made to précis-writing techniques; he wondered if there was any difference between translators and translator/précis-writers. Apparently, the difficulties in recruiting translators for ECA and also in assigning translators there from the Secretariat was partly the result of a number of factors, some of which were connected with circumstances at the duty station. He wished to know whether the Secretariat had studied the possibility of resolving some of those problems; otherwise, efforts to ensure the success of the training courses would remain fruitless.

41. Mr. BAMBA (Upper Volta), noting that only two of the trainees had passed the examination, asked whether the others would be able to repeat the course, or whether the next training course would start again from scratch with new trainees.

42. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division), replying to the representative of Pakistan, said that the trainees who passed the examination had to undertake to spend five years at ECA. As for the question raised by the representative of the Upper Volta, the problem had not arisen because the six trainees not selected had found other work at ECA.

43. Mr. RUEDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services), replying to the representative of Tunisia, said that the translators' examination included a précis-writing paper since United Nations translators were also called upon to do précis-writing.

44. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an additional appropriation of \$362,300 under section 28 J.3: Staff training activities (regional commissions), together with an appropriation of \$35,300 under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1, was approved in first reading without a vote.

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45. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee also approve the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 6 of its report (A/34/7/Add.10), that the Secretary-General should review the results of the 1979-1980 course and submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session so as to enable the Assembly to review the matter before funds were committed in full for the 1980-1981 course.

46. The Chairman's suggestion was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 97: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1978-1979

First-class travel in the United Nations organizations

47. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had noted the savings made to date (\$195,261) as a result of the implementation of resolution 32/198, and recommended that the Fifth Committee take note of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/39).

48. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee take note of the report of the Secretary-General on first-class travel in the United Nations organizations (A/C.5/34/39).

49. The Chairman's suggestion was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 100: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (continued)

Feasibility of establishing a single administrative tribunal (continued)
(A/C.5/34/31; A/C.5/34/L.21/Rev.1)

50. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that following discussions with those delegations which had had reservations on the text of draft decision A/C.5/34/L.21 and with the representative of the co-sponsor, Japan, agreement had been reached on a revised draft decision issued as A/C.5/34/L.21/Rev.1. However, some words had been omitted from the English text of that draft decision; in the fourth line of subparagraph (a), after "United Nations", the words "and the Administrative Tribunal of the ILO" should be added. A corrigendum would be issued.

51. He hoped that the Fifth Committee would have no difficulty in adopting that text.

52. Mr. MASDOUKI (Morocco) said that his delegation wished to join the sponsors of revised draft decision A/C.5/34/L.21/Rev.1.

53. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regretted that the sponsors of the draft decision had ignored his delegation's proposal. He wished the draft decision to include the comments contained in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/31), to the effect that the establishment of a single tribunal should involve some improvement in efficiency. His delegation attached

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(Mr. Grodsky, USSR)

great importance to that aspect of the matter and urged acceptance of its proposal, which should not give rise to any objections.

54. Mr. PEDERSEN (Canada) said that in the original text the establishment of common machinery had been envisaged, which might have had financial implications. The revised version, however, merely spoke of pursuing harmonization and further development, in view of which the sponsors had not thought it necessary to refer to the financial implications.

55. Revised draft decision A/C.5/34/L.21/Rev.1 was adopted.

56. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft decision and approved of its aim, it being understood that, by requesting the Secretary-General and his colleagues on the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to pursue a progressive harmonization and further development of the statutes, rules and practices of the Administrative Tribunal of the ILO and the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations, the General Assembly had not the slightest intention of interfering in the administration of justice by those Tribunals, and that the term "practices" referred to non-judicial practices concerned exclusively with procedure and not with matters of substance.

57. Mr. GOSS (Australia) said that his delegation had joined the consensus, but that the question of the feasibility of establishing a single administrative tribunal should be reconsidered during the thirty-sixth session on the basis of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

58. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) trusted that the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General at the thirty-sixth session would contain a more detailed statement of the views of ILO and other organizations.

AGENDA ITEM 104: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) OTHER PERSONNEL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

Amendments to the Staff Rules (continued) (A/C.5/34/7)

59. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) thought that the Committee should merely take note of the Secretary-General's report on amendments to the Staff Rules.

60. Mr. GOSS (Australia) recalled that the legal interpretation of the relevant provision of the Staff Rules on the repatriation grant was not in accordance with the wording. He assumed that the new provisions suggested in document A/C.5/34/7 contained no surprising elements and that they would not give rise to that type of problem.

61. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that the repatriation grant would be the subject of a draft resolution. He was astonished that the text of the

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(Mr. Papendorp, United States)

provisions of the rules had not been annexed to the report, which would have facilitated the task of delegations. The comments of the representative of Australia on that matter were particularly apt.

62. The CHAIRMAN said he assumed that the document was concerned with the past and that any decision by the General Assembly would be reflected subsequently in the Staff Rules.

63. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) asked if the maximum amount of insurance coverage for personal effects, referred to in paragraph 2 (d) of the report, was fixed or whether it varied according to a staff member's grade.

64. Mr. RUEDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services) replied that the amount was fixed.

65. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, in common with the delegation of the United States of America, his delegation had difficulty in endorsing A/C.5/34/7 straight away. It would have been useful to receive more information on the amendments to the Staff Rules. For example, in paragraph 2 (b) of the report it stated that rule 103.22, assignment allowance, had been amended in accordance with a decision taken by the International Civil Service Commission. Yet, there was no indication whether that decision had been ratified by the General Assembly.

66. If the document merely reflected technical amendments and decisions taken by the General Assembly on personnel questions, why did they need to be reconsidered? If, on the other hand, the Committee was expected to take a decision on the matter, it should do so in full possession of the facts.

AGENDA ITEM 105: REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (continued)
(A/34/30 and Corr.1; A/C.5/34/L.23 and L.24)

67. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that Italy had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.23.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.