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at 8 p.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 71st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BUJ-FLORES (Mexico)

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

CONTENTS

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

United Nations International School (continued)

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/C.2/34/L.45 concerning agenda item 56

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/C.2/34/L.51 concerning agenda item 12

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolutions submitted by the Second Committee in documents A/C.2/34/L.13, L.26, L.28, L.40 and L.60 concerning agenda item 12

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The meeting was called to order at 8 p.m.

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

United Nations International School (continued) (A/34/7/Add.11; A/C.5/34/36)

1. Mr. HAMZAH (Syrian Arab Republic) said that in principle his delegation supported approval of appropriations for non-profit educational institutions with humanitarian goals. However, since his delegation noted from the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations International School (UNIS) in document A/C.5/34/36 that UNIS was a private institution that charged excessive tuition fees, he wished to know how many pupils were the children of diplomats and what their nationality was. He wondered why the United Nations did not grant aid such as that requested for UNIS to other schools that possibly assumed greater responsibilities. If UNIS charged only nominal fees and if it were under the supervision of the United Nations, there would be no objection to granting it financial assistance. Nevertheless, despite those reservations, his delegation would vote in favour of the appropriation requested for UNIS.
2. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the information in table I.B.3 of annex IV to the report of the Secretary-General on UNIS (A/C.5/34/36), which contained the relevant figures on student enrolment.
3. He suggested that the Committee should begin the process of voting on the question of UNIS. In accordance with rule 119 of the rules of procedure, the proposal put forward during the previous meeting by the representative of the United States would be put to the vote first, as it represented a proposal to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion until the following year. If the proposal put forward by the United States was rejected, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 8 and 9 of its report on UNIS (A/34/7/Add.11) would then be put to the vote.
4. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia), speaking on a point of order, said that the proposal put forward by the representative of the United States comprised two elements. The first element, which was within the Committee's competence, was a proposal to defer consideration of the question of approving a financial grant for UNIS until the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. The second element was a proposal that the United Nations Board of Auditors should 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 General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. He had doubts as to the legitimacy of the second half of the United States proposal, since it was difficult to see how the United Nations could make such a request with respect to a school that was a private and independent institution. The Committee could therefore only take a decision on the first part of the proposal before it.
5. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that the request in the second part of the United States proposal was quite legitimate. However, his delegation could not support the motion to defer the question of approving a financial grant for UNIS until the following session of the General Assembly.

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6. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the doubts expressed by the representative of Tunisia with regard to the idea of inviting the Board of Auditors to look into the question of UNIS were well founded. However, it was difficult to see how the representative of Tunisia and others could maintain that the School should be granted assistance by the United Nations, bearing in mind that it was a private institution.

7. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) said that his delegation was of the view that the Board of Auditors could indeed examine the accounts of UNIS, whether the School was a private institution or not. However, it was for the Board of Auditors to decide whether or not it was in a position to audit the School's accounts. It would be in the best interest of all concerned if the proposed audit were carried out. The United Nations was being requested to approve a financial grant of \$3,815,000 on the basis of rather incomplete information. Moreover, his delegation was not convinced that there was any great urgency for the General Assembly to approve the grant in question.

8. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia) said that the decision to approve the grant for UNIS should not be postponed until the following year. Appropriation of the funds requested for the School should be approved during the current session, provided that UNIS agreed to its accounts being audited. The Board of Auditors could then report on such an audit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. If consideration of the question was postponed until the following session, the United Nations would forfeit its right to request an audit of the School's accounts.

9. With regard to the matter of the legality of the Secretary-General's request, which had been raised by the representative of the Soviet Union at the 69th meeting, he remained convinced that the United Nations was free to approve a grant to a private institution such as UNIS.

10. He urged the representative of the United States either to divide his proposal into two parts or to consider the possibility of the Committee approving the proposed grant during the current session, provided that the School declared itself willing to have its accounts audited.

11. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that the Committee could not take a decision until the legal status of the School had been clarified and until it had adequate information regarding the School's financial position. Moreover, as a private body could not submit a budget proposal to an intergovernmental organization, financial questions relating to UNIS were outside the Committee's mandate; any funds provided for the School should come from extrabudgetary resources.

12. Mr. DEBATIN (Under-Secretary-General for Administration, Finance and Management) said that the Committee had before it a proposal that the Secretary-General had submitted within the framework of the United Nations. The fact that the School was established under the law of New York had no bearing on whether or not it should receive the proposed grant. Over a period covering sixteen sessions of the General Assembly the School had been the subject of various General Assembly resolutions that had acknowledged responsibility for it. Owing to the special relationship between the United Nations and UNIS, the Internal Audit

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(Mr. Debatin)

Division of the United Nations had examined the School's accounts year after year. If necessary, those audit reports could be circulated to members of the Committee. Moreover, the Administrative Management Service had also considered the question of UNIS, in view of the latter's special relationship with the United Nations.

13. He would gladly make available to delegations all information regarding the UNIS Development Fund, which had also been examined. However, an audit of the School's accounts would produce nothing of a negative nature, and such questions had no connexion with the question before the Committee, which was an issue that affected the future.

14. If the Committee did not approve the proposed grant for the School, the Board of Trustees would be unable to approve justified salary increases and ensure that the School had a balanced budget; the previous year a teachers' strike had only just been avoided.

15. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that there was a difference between the General Assembly acknowledging the services which UNIS, as a private institution, rendered to the United Nations and assuming responsibility for it.

16. He found it difficult to tell whether the Under-Secretary-General was speaking to the Committee as a representative of the Secretary-General or as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. It might be better for the Secretary-General to be represented by somebody who had no direct connexion with the school and whose views were more likely, therefore, to be objective.

17. The CHAIRMAN said he understood the Under-Secretary-General to be speaking on the Secretary-General's behalf. In his view, Mr. Debatin's additional responsibilities as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the School did not impair his ability to represent the Secretary-General before the Committee.

18. The Committee would vote separately on the two parts of the United States proposal. If it was decided that the matter should not be deferred to the thirty-fifth session, he would immediately ask the Committee to vote on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

19. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that any decision should make it plain that funds for the School could not be provided from the regular budget but must come from extrabudgetary resources.

20. The United States proposal that the question of a financial grant to the United Nations International School should be deferred to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly was rejected by 48 votes to 19, with 23 abstentions.

21. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (A/34/7/Add.11, paras. 8 and 9), it being understood that the Committee would simultaneously approve the Tunisian proposal calling on the United Nations Board of Auditors to examine the financial accounts of the School.

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22. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Tunisian proposal should be submitted in written form before the Committee took any decision thereon; furthermore, it should be put to a separate vote after the Committee had reached a decision on the recommendations of ACABQ.

23. Mr. DE FACQ (Belgium), explaining his vote before the vote, said that his delegation did not wish to vote against special arrangements for the School if they were necessary, but at the same time it could not vote in favour of providing resources for a fund which had been described in unacceptably vague terms. His delegation would therefore abstain.

24. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an additional appropriation of \$3,515,000 under section 28.K was approved by 79 votes to 9, with 7 abstentions.

25. Mr. DOWSE (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendation because of the importance it attached to the work of the School, which it did not wish to see jeopardized. While it would welcome any further information which the General Assembly might receive as a result of the Tunisian proposal, it nevertheless endorsed the views set forth by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 11 of its report, on the ground that it would not be in the best interests of either the School or the Organization for the General Assembly to become involved in the day-to-day running of UNIS.

26. Miss ZONICLE (Bahamas) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendation as an expression of its trust that the School would put its affairs in order, and in the expectation that such assistance would not become a recurring burden on the budget of the United Nations.

27. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that his delegation, too, had voted in favour. Since the School had had to turn to the General Assembly for assistance, however, its finances should be verified by the Organization.

28. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that he had abstained because the Advisory Committee's recommendation did not stipulate that assistance to the School could be provided only out of extrabudgetary resources.

29. Mr. RUGWIZANGO (Rwanda) said that his delegation had abstained because the Fifth Committee had not yet received appropriate explanations concerning the School's finances.

30. Mr. ALLAFI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendation, but believed nevertheless that the School's finances should be verified by the Board of Auditors.

31. Mr. BLACKMAN (Barbados) said that his delegation, which had also voted in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendation, was disturbed to note that the request for funds had originated with the Secretary-General, while the Assembly's previous decision to help the School had originated in a draft resolution proposed by Member States. He also suggested that the Committee might consider whether it was proper for an international civil servant to be in the position in which the Under-Secretary-General currently found himself.

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32. Mr. HSAHLAI (United Republic of Cameroon) said that his delegation was conscious of the fact that, if the School was not properly managed and maintained, the children could suffer. It had voted in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, but hoped that in future more care would be taken to ensure that the School's finances were properly managed.

33. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia) said that he had voted in favour of the Advisory Committee's recommendations subject to the audit called for in his proposal, which would read:

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

His intention was to make the granting of the subsidy conditional upon the Assembly's right to inspect the finances of UNIS.

34. Mr. KHAMIS (Algeria) suggested that the phrase "alleged deficit" should be amended to read "accumulated deficit".

35. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) expressed support for the Tunisian proposal.

36. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that the phrase "simultaneously with its granting to the United Nations International School of a subsidy of \$3,515,000" should be deleted.

37. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia) said that he could accept the amendment proposed by Algeria, but not that proposed by the Soviet Union.

38. Mr. JASABE (Sierra Leone) asked for further information concerning the School's policy of awarding bursaries to assist parents in paying the education fees. He further proposed the addition of the phrase "highlighting the basis of award and the amounts disbursed from 1974 to 1979 according to geographical region" after the words "bursary policies".

39. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia) urged the representative of Sierra Leone not to inject the political matter of geographical distribution into the discussion of a question primarily affecting schoolchildren.

40. Mr. DEBATIN (Under-Secretary-General for Administration, Finance and Management) said that in the current school year bursaries had been awarded in respect of 119 children of Secretariat staff who did not receive an education grant; 12 children of Secretariat staff who did receive an education grant; 27 children of members of delegations (he had no information as to whether the members received grants or not); two children of United Nations correspondents; and 71 children of parents unconnected with the United Nations. A total of 231 bursaries had been granted, of which approximately two thirds were for the children of Secretariat personnel, diplomats or mission staff.

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41. Replying to a question from the Algerian representative, he said that a decision to provide assistance to the School from the regular budget would empower the General Assembly to ask for any necessary examination of the School's finances; the United Nations Board of Auditors would be obliged to respond to a request from the General Assembly to conduct such an examination.

42. Mr. JASADE (Sierra Leone) and Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) indicated that they would withdraw their amendments.

43. The Tunisian oral proposal, as amended, was adopted by 83 votes to none, with 8 abstentions.

44. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the Tunisian proposal on the understanding that the audit of the books of UNIS by the Board of Auditors would precede the granting of financial support. Thus only after the Board of Auditors had examined the books would the Controller authorize disbursement of the funds.

45. Mr. RUGWIZANGOGA (Rwanda) said that he had voted for the Tunisian proposal out of concern that funds for UNIS should be regulated carefully. He would also have supported the recommendations of ACABQ had they been put to the vote after the Tunisian proposal.

46. Mr. NSAHLAI (United Republic of Cameroon) said that, whatever procedure was adopted, it should not prejudice the financing of UNIS.

47. Mr. RAOELISOLOFOMANANA (Madagascar) said that he had voted for the proposal of Tunisia and was satisfied with it.

48. Mr. KHAMIS (Algeria) said it was not the understanding of his delegation that the start of payments to UNIS would be conditional on the submission of the report of the Board of Auditors. There was nothing in the wording of the Tunisian proposal which would prevent the Secretary-General from disbursing funds before the Board of Auditors had reported on the UNIS accounts.

49. Mr. MARTORELL (Peru) said that his delegation had voted for the Tunisian proposal but wished to endorse the statement of the representative of Algeria to the effect that the subsidy should not be subject to the completion of an audit. Part of the assistance should be given beforehand.

50. Mr. BLACKMAN (Barbados) asked whether the Under-Secretary-General for Administration, Finance and Management, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of UNIS, thought that the Board of Auditors would be permitted to carry out the mandate given to it by the Committee.

51. Mr. DEBATIN (Under-Secretary-General for Administration, Finance and Management) said that, when he had introduced the report, he had been speaking as Under-Secretary-General for Administration, Finance and Management and, as such,

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(Mr. Debatin)

had been precluded from speaking on behalf of the Board of Trustees. However he served on the Board of Trustees as representative of the Secretary-General and could assure the Committee that the Board of Trustees would be only too willing to enable the Board of Auditors to carry out its mandate.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/C.2/34/L.45 concerning agenda item 56 (A/C.5/34/53)

52. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that ACABQ had considered document A/C.5/34/53, in which the Secretary-General had submitted the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/34/L.45. The Secretary-General had proposed an additional appropriation of \$11,000, under section 13 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981, to cover travel costs of two staff members of the Transport Division of the Economic Commission for Africa.

53. Accordingly, the Fifth Committee might wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee (A/C.2/34/L.45), there would be a need for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$11,000 under section 13 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981. The Secretary-General would take such commitments into account in preparing the performance report for the biennium 1980-1981.

54. Mr. RAMZY (Egypt) said that his delegation fully supported the budget estimates which had been submitted by the Secretary-General in connexion with draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.45. It was to be hoped that the studies would assist the Government of Zaïre in solving the problems which faced that country in the fields of transportation and transit.

55. THE CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should approve the recommendation of the Advisory Committee without a vote.

56. It was so decided.

57. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had not objected to the Chairman's suggestion to dispense with a vote, on the understanding that the measures contemplated in the draft resolution and in the statement of its administrative and financial implications could be carried out using the resources approved in first reading in connexion with the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and would not involve additional expenditure.

58. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) said that if the decision had been taken by vote, he would not have voted for the ACABQ recommendation, as he

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(Mr. Saddler, United States)

considered that the expenditure could be absorbed under section 13 of the programme budget for 1980-1981, as approved in first reading.

59. Mr. KABONGO-TUNSALA (Zaire) thanked the members of the Fifth Committee for their support on the particular problems confronting Zaire with regard to transport, transit and access to foreign markets.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Second Committee in document A/C.2/34/L.51 concerning agenda item 12 (A/C.5/34/55)

60. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that ACABQ had considered document A/C.5/34/55, which contained the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution in document A/C.2/34/L.51. Paragraph 6 of the draft resolution would request the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a report on permanent sovereignty over natural resources (General Assembly resolution 32/161). Paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report indicated that, should the draft resolution be adopted, the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) would have to be entrusted with the preparation of the report; however, as the Secretary-General stated in paragraph 4, in view of the imminent move of ECWA to Baghdad, it had been rather difficult for the Secretariat to provide meaningful estimates of financial implications. The Secretary-General had nevertheless proposed an additional appropriation in the amount of \$77,750 under section 14 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 on the understanding that the situation would be reviewed in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 1980-1981. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee had concluded that the simplest course of action would be to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments.

61. Accordingly, the Fifth Committee might wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee, there would be a need for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding \$77,750 under section 14 of the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 and that those commitments would be reflected in the performance report for the biennium 1980-1981.

62. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Soviet Union had always supported and continued to support the just claims of the Palestinian people. His Government condemned Israeli actions in taking over Arab territories, as well as the policy which they had pursued therein, and continued to advocate a fair settlement of the Middle East conflict. He wished to reiterate once again the position which his delegation had already made clear both in the Second Committee and in the Fifth Committee. If the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee was adopted, his delegation considered that the corresponding expenditures should be absorbed within the regular budget. The requirements were relatively small and there was every justification and possibility for absorbing them within the amount already approved in first reading under the section concerned.

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63. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should approve the recommendation of the Advisory Committee without a vote.

64. It was so decided.

65. Miss MILGROM (Israel) said that her delegation had voted against draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.51 in the Second Committee and had stated its reasons when explaining its vote. In short, her delegation objected both to the draft resolution and to its financial implications.

66. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) said that his delegation had voted against the draft resolution in the Second Committee. Had the recommendation of ACABQ been put to the vote in the Fifth Committee, his delegation would have voted against it.

67. Mr. RAMZY (Egypt) said he trusted that the report which had been requested would cover the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolutions submitted by the Second Committee in documents A/C.2/34/L.13, L.26, L.28, L.40 and L.60 concerning agenda item 12 (A/C.5/34/50)

68. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that when the Advisory Committee considered the statement of administrative and financial implications contained in document A/C.5/34/50, it had found that the estimates for the D-1 and G-4 posts requested in paragraph 8 had been costed at 95 per cent rather than 50 per cent and 65 per cent respectively, with the result that the total appropriation indicated in the table in paragraph 9 of that document should have been \$90,200 and not \$153,400. It was standard United Nations practice that, for all new posts in the Professional category, a 50-per-cent reduction in salary, staff costs and miscellaneous expenses was applied to allow for the fact that recruitment took several months and posts were not filled immediately on 1 January of the year in question. The factor of 95 per cent was applied only to established posts, the remaining 5 per cent being intended to offset delays in recruitment. A 35-per-cent deduction was applied to all new General Service posts, while no reduction was applied to established General Service posts since staff for such posts were generally recruited locally.

69. As a result, the estimates given in paragraph 9 should be revised to read:

<u>"Section 1</u>	Consultants	\$29,900	
	Temporary posts (including common staff costs)	9,100	
	Travel of staff	30,200	
	Miscellaneous	3,000	\$72,200
		<hr/>	
<u>Section 28D</u>	Various		18,000
<u>Section 31</u>	Staff assessment		8,600
<u>Income section 1</u>	Income from staff assessment		(8,600)
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			90,200'
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70. The Advisory Committee was unable to recommend acceptance of the request for the creation of a D-1 and a G-4 post (para. 8), and could recommend acceptance of only those financial estimates which did not relate to the creation of such posts. As a result, it was recommending a total appropriation of \$63,100 in response to the Secretary-General's request, rather than the revised figure of \$90,200.

71. Mr. HOUNA GOLO (Chad) expressed concern that the Advisory Committee should have turned down the Secretary-General's request for the creation of a D-1 and a G-4 post, when the volume of work involved in the special economic assistance programmes carried out by the Office for Special Political Questions had increased considerably since the first programme of assistance had been requested for Mozambique in 1976. The addition of the assistance programmes now proposed for Grenada, Chad, Uganda, Equatorial Guinea and Tonga would bring the number of special assistance programmes up to 16. It was highly unlikely that the Secretary-General would be able to ensure that those programmes were managed effectively if he was not provided with more staff. His delegation proposed therefore that the Fifth Committee should restore the Secretary-General's request for the creation of a D-1 and a G-4 post. All the countries concerned were in a disastrous financial situation, and everything must be done to ensure that the assistance given to them was effective.

72. Mr. MAGARA (Uganda) observed that the Secretary-General had made what his delegation viewed as a modest request for \$63,100 to cover the cost of consultants and of travel to the five countries for which assistance was requested. His

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(Mr. Nagara, Uganda)

delegation believed that that request should be granted to enable the Secretary-General to implement effectively the mandate entrusted to him by the Second Committee. His delegation had also noted from paragraph 5 of document A/C.5/34/50 that the workload of the Office for Special Political Questions had increased tremendously since the first programme of assistance had been requested for Mozambique in 1976. In the light of that increased workload his delegation recommended strongly that the Office should be strengthened and therefore formally endorsed the proposal by the representative of Chad that the Secretary-General's request for the replacement of a P-3 post by a D-1 and a G-4 post should be restored.

73. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that the Advisory Committee had in effect already recommended an appropriation of \$63,100 for missions to the countries requiring assistance. If the Fifth Committee adopted the proposal by the representative of Chad, however, the total additional appropriation would be \$90,200.

74. Mr. MBAPILA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, since it came from one of the regions where emergency assistance was being requested, his delegation was perhaps better placed than most to appreciate the extent of the damage suffered by the countries concerned and their disastrous economic situation. The Fifth Committee must act on their behalf, and he proposed therefore that the Committee should endorse the Secretary-General's recommendations as contained in document A/C.5/34/50, in particular paragraph 8 thereof, and approve a total appropriation of \$90,200.

75. Mr. BANBA (Upper Volta), supported by Mr. HAMZAH (Syrian Arab Republic), proposed that, as there appeared to be no objection to the proposal made by the representative of Chad, the Committee should decide to vote on the Secretary-General's original request in document A/C.5/34/L.50, as amended for technical reasons by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

76. It was so decided.

77. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to report to the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolutions submitted by the Second Committee in documents A/C.2/34/L.13, L.26, L.28, L.40 and L.60, additional appropriations of \$72,200 under section 1 and \$18,000 under section 28.D of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 would be required, as well as an additional appropriation of \$8,600 under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1.

78. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.20 p.m.