



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 72nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PIRSON (Belgium)

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

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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)  
(A/34/6 and Add.1, A/34/7, A/34/38)

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

1. Mr. RAMOS (Cape Verde) said that, had there been a vote, his delegation would have voted in favour of the proposal made by the delegation of Chad to support the Secretary-General's request for one D-1 and one G-4 post to strengthen the Office for Special Political Questions in view of its increased workload on special economic assistance programmes, even though that meant overruling the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.
2. Mr. SADDLER (United States of America) said that, had the matter been put to a vote, his delegation would have abstained, not because it had any difficulty with the activities contemplated by the Secretary-General in providing economic assistance to a number of countries, but because it thought that the additional resources could have been provided within the appropriations already approved during the first reading of the proposed programme budget.
3. Mr. DOWSE (United Kingdom) said that his delegation fully supported the activities outlined in document A/C.5/34/50, but saw no justification for rejecting the Advisory Committee's recommendations. Had there been a vote, it would therefore have voted against the proposal of the delegation of Chad.
4. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would have voted against the proposal because, while it had no objection to providing assistance, it did object to increasing the size of the staff. The Advisory Committee was able to give much closer scrutiny to the financial implications than the Fifth Committee and its recommendations deserved support because they were based on full knowledge of the facts. His delegation was convinced that the Advisory Committee had been correct in recommending rejection of the request for two extra posts and therefore regretted the arbitrary decision taken by the Fifth Committee.
5. Mr. HOUNA GOLO (Chad) expressed thanks to those delegations which had supported his proposal. He said that there was no question of taking arbitrary decisions. The proposal had been based on a sincere belief that the Secretary-General should be given the necessary support to enable him to respond to requests from the General Assembly. He respected the Advisory Committee but, if its reasons were unconvincing and Member States believed that acceptance of its recommendations would adversely affect a particular programme, it was Members' responsibility to amend them. He hoped that, when the time came, some of the delegations that had spoken would assume their responsibilities as members of the international community and respond to the requests being made of them.

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AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS (continued)

(d) CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE (A/34/264; A/C.5/34/35)

6. The Committee decided without objection to recommend to the General Assembly confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Faria (Brazil), Mr. Nehru (India) and Mr. Raczkowski (Poland) as members of the Investments Committee to serve for a period of three years, beginning on 1 January 1980.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF SIX MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS (A/34/262; A/C.5/34/52, A/C.5/34/75)

7. The Committee decided without objection to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of Mr. Al-Mahdi (Iraq), Mr. Bouayad-Agha (Algeria), Mr. Hennes (United States of America), Mr. Sezaki (Japan), Mr. Šmid (Czechoslovakia), and Mr. Tardos (Hungary) as members of the Committee on Contributions to serve for a period of three years, beginning on 1 January 1980.

8. The CHAIRMAN noted that Mr. Cubillas Estrada (Mexico) had resigned from the Committee on Contributions.

9. The Committee decided without objection to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of Mr. Dávila Mendoza (Mexico) to serve for the unexpired portion of the term of office of Mr. Cubillas Estrada (Mexico), which would expire on 31 December 1981.

(e) APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL (A/34/265; A/C.5/34/67 and Add.1)

10. Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand) said that, in submitting the nomination of Mr. Sucharitkul, his Government reiterated its firm belief in the principle of rotation of the membership of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and other United Nations organs and bodies, to ensure equitable representation of Member States.

11. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to rule 92 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

12. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Landau (Austria), Ms. Chan (Singapore) and Mr. Tommo Monthe (United Republic of Cameroon) acted as tellers.

13. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 119

Invalid ballots: 0

Number of valid ballots: 119

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Abstentions: 0

Required majority: 60

Number of votes obtained:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Mr. Tshikankie   | 105 |
| Mrs. Bastid      | 101 |
| Mr. Sen          | 65  |
| Mr. Sucharitkul  | 65  |
| Mr. Venkataraman | 4   |
| Mr. Ustor        | 1   |

14. Mr. Tshikankie (Zaire) and Mrs. Bastid (France) having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend their appointment as members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1980.

15. Mr. Sen (India) and Mr. Sucharitkul (Thailand) having obtained an equal number of votes, a second vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 130

Invalid ballots: 3

Number of valid ballots: 127

Abstentions: 0

Required majority: 64

Number of votes obtained:

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Mr. Sen         | 72 |
| Mr. Sucharitkul | 55 |

16. Mr. Sen (India) having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend his appointment as a member of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1980.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (A/34/261; A/C.5/34/47 and Add.1)

17. The CHAIRMAN read out rules 155 and 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Document A/C.5/34/47 showed that six nominations had been

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received for the five vacancies in the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Document A/34/47/Add.1 consisted of a note by the Secretary-General informing the General Assembly that Mr. Mselle had been nominated by his Government for reappointment to ACABQ.

18. Mr. BUJ-FLORES (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the group of Member States from Latin America and the Caribbean, said that the election should respect the principles on which the United Nations had operated so far and which made it a key forum for the international community. It was essential for the Committee to respect the long-standing gentlemen's agreement to fill vacancies by electing members from each of the regional groups, in such a way as to respect the principle of equitable geographical distribution in all the different subsidiary organs.

19. The maintenance of a delicate balance in ACABQ membership was the sole guarantee that the interests not only of individual Member States but also of regions would be taken into account. The group of States which he represented had every confidence in the work of ACABQ and was thus concerned about its smooth functioning, particularly where a change of approach might hamper the work of ACABQ. He reiterated his group's endorsement of Mr. Thomas (Trinidad and Tobago) as candidate for one of the vacancies.

20. Mr. MINCHEV (Bulgaria), speaking on behalf of the group of Eastern European States, said that its nomination of Mr. Abraszewski (Poland) for reappointment stemmed from the long-standing support he enjoyed among members of the group of Eastern European States and also among members of the other regional groups. Mr. Abraszewski was an active delegate, possessing the relevant experience in administrative and budgetary matters. The group of Eastern European States stressed the importance of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, which had been generally supported by Member States throughout the existence of the United Nations.

21. Mr. RAKOTANAIVO (Madagascar), speaking on behalf of the group of African States, said that his delegation wanted to comment on the candidatures of African members submitted. As far back as May 1979, the African group had given its support to Mr. Malloum of Mauritania, as candidate for West Africa, and Mr. Okeyo of Kenya as candidate for East Africa. The two candidatures had subsequently been endorsed by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at its meeting in Monrovia in June and July 1979.

22. On 4 December 1979, delegations had been officially informed of the candidature of Mr. Mselle of the United Republic of Tanzania. Contact had been made with the three African delegations concerned, but the result had been that the different delegations were maintaining their candidates.

23. It was thus for the Fifth Committee to decide on the candidatures that had been submitted. His delegation stressed that the African group had always borne in mind the gentlemen's agreement existing with regard to the distribution

(Mr. Rakotanaivo, Madagascar)

of seats in ACABQ, and that the Council of Ministers of OAU had also taken account of that agreement in its decision of July 1979; it was to be hoped that delegations would vote in accordance with that principle.

24. Mr. BATAWI (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of the group of Asian States, endorsed the candidature of Mr. Kemal of Pakistan and hoped it would receive the necessary support.

25. Mr. MBAPILA (United Republic of Tanzania) said his delegation had officially submitted the candidature of Mr. Mselle for reappointment to ACABQ in a note verbale circulated the previous day to members. The candidature had been decided on only after consultation with many delegations in the Fifth Committee and because ACABQ was an expert group, whose members were appointed as individuals and on their own merits.

26. His delegation cared for the quality of work of ACABQ and was fully convinced that, as that Committee's activities became more complex, they called for greater expertise and more committed membership. Otherwise the Fifth Committee would not be able properly to discharge its responsibilities. Mr. Mselle, as Chairman, had been totally committed to ACABQ and his reappointment had been called for by many delegations in the Fifth Committee.

27. The CHAIRMAN again drew attention to rule 92 of the rules of procedure.

28. Mr. BAMBIA (Upper Volta) felt it his duty, as a member of the group of African States and also on behalf of his own delegation, to support previous speakers in stressing that the principle of equitable geographical distribution and the gentlemen's agreement could not lightly be infringed. Within the African group itself, the principle of equitable geographical distribution was upheld, and took account of various factors applying in the different subregions of Africa. His group had always succeeded in having the ACABQ include members from among English, French, and Arabic speakers representing African countries. He hoped the Committee would respect that principle.

29. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Blackman (Barbados), Mr. Belyaev (Byelorussian SSR), Mr. Garrido (Philippines) and Mr. Tunsala (Zaire) acted as tellers.

30. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 134

Invalid ballots: 1

Number of valid ballots: 133

Abstentions: 0

Required majority: 67

Number of votes obtained:

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Mr. Abraszewski | 123 |
| Mr. Kemal       | 123 |
| Mr. Thomas      | 119 |
| Mr. Malloum     | 104 |
| Mr. Mselle      | 95  |
| Mr. Okeyo       | 49  |

31. Mr. Abraszewski (Poland), Mr. Kemal (Pakistan), Mr. Thomas (Trinidad and Tobago), Mr. Malloum (Mauritania) and Mr. Mselle (United Republic of Tanzania) having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend their appointment as members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1980.

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.