

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 73rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PIRSON (Belgium)

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

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the Committee.

Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.5/34/SR.73  
13 December 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 4.05 p.m.

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

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

1. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (United Republic of Cameroon) said that his delegation had been pleased to note that most of the candidates elected to subsidiary bodies came from friendly countries. Both it and other delegations, notably those of the African region, regretted, however, that one of the candidates endorsed by the African Group had not been elected to serve on the Advisory Committee. He wished to draw the attention of those concerned to the fact that the African Group had demonstrated its customary sense of equity during the consideration of other candidacies.

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

Revised programme and budget proposals under section 15: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (A/34/7/Add.13; A/C.5/34/27 and Corr.1)

2. Mr. AL-HASHAR (Oman) said he regretted that document A/C.5/34/27 had not been reproduced in Arabic. However, in the light of its concern for the work of UNCTAD, his delegation would not delay the Committee's work by requesting the Arabic version.

3. Mr. DUQUE (Secretary of the Committee) replied that the very regrettable situation concerning the lack of documents in Arabic, already thoroughly discussed in the Committee, was due to the lack of capacity in the Arabic Translation Service, which he hoped would be in a better position in future to cope with the workload.

4. Mr. DOWSE (United Kingdom) expressed concern that the revised proposals under section 15 had been submitted to the General Assembly less than two weeks before the scheduled end of the session. The delay of six months between the fifth session of UNCTAD and the appearance of the documents was unjustifiably long. As a result, it had not been possible to subject the documents to proper preliminary scrutiny; he hoped, therefore, that the Fifth Committee would give the documents the careful consideration they deserved.

5. While his delegation agreed on the need to ensure that UNCTAD had sufficient resources to carry out the decisions taken at the Manila Conference, that did not imply that it accepted all the financial estimates presented by the Secretary-General. The real growth rate of 3.7 per cent was well above the over-all rate for the budget, and in many areas the Secretary-General was requesting additional appropriations without considering how best to utilize existing staff and resources. The lack of a clear legislative mandate for a number of activities proposed in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/34/23) was a matter for concern.

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6. Mr. VISLYKH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) emphasized the importance attached by the socialist countries to restructuring international trade on a just, equitable and mutually beneficial basis. Nevertheless, he noted that the estimate for section 15 exceeded the revised appropriation for 1978-1979 by 6.6 per cent, giving a rate of real growth significantly above that of the budget as a whole. In his delegation's view, that was excessive and unjustified. The increase was largely explained by the Secretary-General's request for new posts and reclassifications, as well as provisions to compensate for the effects of inflation. His delegation had repeatedly expressed its disagreement with the Secretariat's systematic policy of adding to the number of staff and requesting post reclassifications; in one case under consideration the proposed reclassification seemed not to be linked to any increase in functions or responsibilities, but was intended simply as a means of promoting the staff member concerned. It had also drawn attention to the unfairness of placing the burden of inflation on all Member States: the major share should be borne by the host countries. His delegation could not support the Secretary-General's proposals, and would vote against them.

7. Mr. LÖSCHNER (Federal Republic of Germany) stated that he had strong reservations concerning the revised estimates under section 15. He shared the United Kingdom delegation's concern over the late submission of the documents, with the attendant lack of prior consideration by other bodies, the real rate of growth of 3.7 per cent and the lack of proper authority for a number of the activities proposed. Moreover, the number of newly requested posts was unjustifiably high, especially in the areas of transfer of technology, economic co-operation among developing countries, and executive direction and management.

8. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) endorsed the revised programme and budget proposals under section 15, which gave recognition to the increasing role of UNCTAD in trade and development. He did not believe that the proposals had been deliberately submitted at the last minute. It was clear that the Secretary-General had tried hard to hold down requirements, and he was to be commended for not having requested any increase in appropriations for such items as consultants' services or official travel. His delegation would support the Advisory Committee's recommendations contained in paragraphs 8 and 9 of its report (A/34/7/Add.13).

9. Mr. SESSI (Italy) said he regretted that the documents had been issued so late, and expressed concern at the projected rate of growth for the section. He pointed out that, because of a previous decision by the Committee, the activities under the section could not be considered together with the item on administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies; there was, therefore, a danger that some activities might be duplicated.

10. Mr. BUJ-FLORES (Mexico) endorsed the views of previous speakers concerning the late submission of the revised budget proposals for UNCTAD and said that although the rate of growth proposed under the section did not tally with the general rate of growth for the budget as a whole, the importance of UNCTAD programmes, especially for the developing countries, far outweighed the growth in resources requested by the Secretary-General. Furthermore, the Secretary-General was to be applauded for refraining from asking for increases in many areas. The proposals reflected the decisions adopted at a conference in which all delegations had had the opportunity to take part. He noted with satisfaction that, with the exception of one proposed reclassification of a P-5 post, the Advisory Committee did not contest the Secretary-General's proposals. He hoped that the Fifth Committee would be able to approve the recommendations of ACABQ after considering the section with due care.

11. Mr. PAL (India) said that, while the rate of growth proposed by the Secretary-General for section 15 of the budget was higher than for other areas, it should be recalled that different programmes had different priorities. The UNCTAD programmes were of higher priority than most, and it was therefore not surprising that the rate of growth was above average. His delegation had already expressed concern that the planned real growth rate of 0.8 per cent for the budget as a whole might imply an artificial restriction of necessary programmes. The Secretary-General had exercised restraint in formulating his proposals, and what was left was a basic, necessary core which could not be further reduced. He appealed to Committee members to withdraw their objections to the Secretary-General's proposals.

12. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that the work of UNCTAD was undoubtedly as important to the developed as to the developing countries. The United States had previously supported UNCTAD programmes and would continue to do so. He was sure that those delegations which had complained about the late submission of the relevant documents had not meant to imply that there had been an attempt to force through the revised estimates at the last moment. Nevertheless, he associated himself with the views expressed by the representatives of the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany, as he believed that the proposals contained a number of areas in which justified reductions, improvements and economies could be made.

13. Mr. AYADHI (Tunisia) said that the document containing the revised programme and budget proposals under section 15 (A/C.5/34/27) was remarkably well-structured, and that it was better submitted late than not at all. That exercise, coming as it did every four years after the UNCTAD Conference, was a very important function, and his delegation fully understood that time was needed to prepare a budget that was properly justified. His delegation's concerns were more of a budgetary nature. Further work was needed to promote awareness of the key role played by UNCTAD in the United Nations system with a view to establishing the new international economic order. However, perhaps the representative of UNCTAD could be requested to explain whether it would have been materially possible for the Secretariat to submit the revised estimates earlier. The question arose as to whether the Committee should begin its consideration of the estimates prepared by the Secretariat a year earlier, or should wait until all the budget estimates had been submitted before considering them.

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(Mr. Ayadhi, Tunisia)

14. With regard to the increase in the budget estimates for UNCTAD, he noted that, whereas the appropriations for UNCTAD were of particular importance, the responsibility for the appropriations fell on every Member State. Those Member States that were circumspect with regard to increased expenditure should be more co-operative in the various committees of UNCTAD, in which there had been long and arduous negotiations on such matters as basic commodities, manufactures, transport, transfer of technology and economic co-operation. The countries most concerned about increased expenditure were the cause of that expenditure. Attempts had been made in vain to establish the new international economic order, on which the General Assembly had already agreed. His delegation therefore endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendations (A/34/7/Add.13) in the belief that the revised estimates were fully justified.

15. Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that, bearing in mind the decisions and resolutions adopted at the fifth session of UNCTAD, his delegation fully supported approval of the appropriation requested under section 15.

16. Mr. DENIS (France) said that his delegation shared the view of the delegations of the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, United Kingdom and the United States on the revised programme and budget proposals for UNCTAD, concerning whose bureaucratic growth his delegation had strong reservations.

17. Mr. BUNC (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation regarded UNCTAD as one of the most important bodies of the United Nations system, and fully supported the Secretary-General's proposals in document A/C.5/34/27.

18. Mr. BROTDININGRAT (Indonesia) said that, in view of the number and importance of the resolutions adopted at the fifth session of UNCTAD, an increased rate of growth of section 15 of the budget was only to be expected. His delegation could therefore support the Advisory Committee's recommendations in document A/34/7/Add.13.

19. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division), explaining the reasons for the time lag in submitting document A/C.5/34/27, said that the process of preparing the programme and budget proposals under section 15 - which had begun before the Manila Conference had been held - was a very complex and time-consuming process involving many meetings with the Advisory Committee and discussions with, inter alia, the Office of Financial Services. As was well known, the resolutions adopted by the Manila Conference had posed some very difficult problems for the Secretariat, entailing some very substantial financial implications, which had had to be reconciled with the over-all policy of budgetary constraint. It had been necessary to ascertain which activities could be absorbed within existing resources and those which would require additional resources.

20. The time lag therefore seemed justified. The Budget Division believed that the proposals were well-balanced, in the light of the new programmes and the general policy that characterized the budget for the biennium 1980-1981.

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21. Mr. ADEBANJO (UNCTAD Liaison Officer) added that such delay was inevitable, taking into account the circumstances of the Manila Conference and the preparation of the programme budget. The Trade and Development Board and the Working Party on the Programme Budget and the Medium-Term Plan had already examined the proposed budget; the outcome of their study was contained in document TD/B/773, which also reflected many points raised by delegations concerning legislative authority, late submission of documents and other matters. He added that legislative authority was set out in the medium-term plan rather than in the programme budget, except in the case of decisions taken by the Manila Conference.

22. It was clear from discussions in the Trade and Development Board and the Working Party that the rate of growth of the budget was modest, taking into account the ever-increasing activities of UNCTAD. In the case of negotiations on commodities, for example, it might take up to 20 negotiating conferences in order to reach agreement on one commodity.

23. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said it was his understanding that the Working Party's examination of the UNCTAD budget had not been wholly satisfying.

24. Turning to a more general issue, he asked what effort had been made during the preparation of the revised estimates under section 15 to implement General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX). His delegation regretted that the budget showed no evidence of an effort to redeploy resources from completed and obsolete programmes or to identify marginal and ineffective programmes.

25. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the Secretary-General's proposals under section 15 (A/C.5/34/27) subsection by subsection.

#### B. Executive direction and management

26. Mr. DOWSE (United Kingdom), noting the "increased volume of activities" referred to in paragraph 14 (i), asked whether it would be possible to indicate what the increase had been in percentage terms.

27. He noted from paragraph 14 (iii) that there was more need for a direct involvement and input by the Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in terms of over-all directives, monitoring and follow-up. He wished to know whether that need had been identified by Member States and was reflected in substantive resolutions, or whether it had been identified by the UNCTAD secretariat alone.

28. Turning to paragraphs 15-17, he noted that one D-1 post was requested, but that the only justification given was the need to cope with the "important tasks" that the New York Liaison Office must be expected to perform, particularly in the case of the head of the unit, who "should be able to speak with authority". It was difficult to agree with the proposal without more convincing reasons why the existing staff was inadequate. His delegation did not believe that authority necessarily depended on grade, and that a D-1 post would carry significantly more weight than a P-5.

(Mr. Dowse, United Kingdom)

29. Referring to paragraph 19, he requested more detailed information on the precise functions of the consultants: for example, he wished to know on what subject they provided direct advice to the Secretary-General.

30. Mr. ADEBANJO (UNCTAD Liaison Officer), replying to the United Kingdom representative, noted that UNCTAD activities had increased not only as a result of the expansion and intensification of ongoing activities but also as a result of decisions taken by the Manila Conference. All delegations agreed that, where new activities were proposed, additional resources had to be provided. Those activities were referred to in the paragraphs mentioned by the United Kingdom representative.

31. On the question of consultants, the UNCTAD secretariat had provided information informally at the meeting of the Working Party on the Programme Budget; however, he would request the information from the UNCTAD secretariat at Geneva and would make it available to interested delegations as soon as received. The information included breakdown by nationality, type of work, number of work-months, and so on.

32. With regard to the proposed new D-1 post for the New York Liaison Office, he recalled that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had held some years earlier that the post should have been at the D-2 level but had not pressed his view, because of budgetary constraints. Within the United Nations system, such posts were at the D-1 level. As to the responsibilities of the incumbent, he drew attention to the large number of draft resolutions adopted by the Second Committee on which UNCTAD was expected to take follow-up action.

### C. Programmes of activity

#### 1. Money, finance and development

33. Mr. SESSI (Italy), noting from paragraph 36 that an approximately threefold increase in appropriations was requested in respect of the increased number of pages of certain publications, said he wished to know the actual increase in the number of pages.

34. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that many of the proposals for upgrading in document A/C.5/34/27 needed more justification. A case in point was the proposal in paragraph 31.

35. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division) said that the post in question involved new responsibilities in connexion with the expansion of UNCTAD activities, such as computer technology and data processing. In the recent budget document no requests for reclassification had been made without a study in depth, and they had been referred to the classification unit at Headquarters.

36. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said he recalled a recent statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the effect that if the nature of the job had not changed but the incumbent simply had more duties, that was not a justification for reclassification; he thought that that applied in the present case.

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4. Shipping, ports and multimodal transport

37. Mr. PAL (India) asked for details of the decrease in the number of pages expected to be published in 1980-1981, as reported in paragraph 72 of the revised programme and budget proposals.

38. Mr. LÖSCHNER (Federal Republic of Germany) noted the request in paragraph 65 for an additional P-3 post in connexion with shipping. More information was needed on the reasons for establishing a new post in an area when there might be duplication of the work of IMCO and ICAO.

39. Mr. ADEBANJO (UNCTAD Liaison Officer) said that IMCO dealt with such matters as safety, pollution and various technical aspects of navigation, whereas UNCTAD dealt with the regulation of international trade and shipping movements; there would thus be no danger of duplication of the work either of IMCO or of ICAO.

5. Transfer of technology

40. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) asked what was the justification for the additional P-4 and P-3 posts required for the transfer of technology programme.

41. Mr. DOWSE (United Kingdom) asked for elucidation of the remark in paragraph 86 that the addition of those posts would enable the Secretary-General to implement the increased workload at a reasonable pace. He noted that the proposals nowhere specified a completion date for any programme.

42. Mr. ADEBANJO (UNCTAD Liaison Officer) said the observation referred to the fact that the more posts were available, the quicker the work would be done.

43. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division) noted that the information which the United States representative had requested was summarized in paragraphs 83 and 84, while paragraph 86 made it clear that the increased workload arose from UNCTAD resolutions 112 (V) and 102 (V). He could give any interested delegations a vast amount of detail concerning the budgetary implications of the resolutions adopted at the Manila session of the Conference; the short answer was that the increased workload was heavy but the UNCTAD secretariat would endeavour to cope with it within a reasonable period.

6. Economic co-operation among developing countries

44. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand) noted the reference in paragraph 67 to rearranged responsibilities within the existing staff resources; he asked whether such rearrangement could be extended to obviate altogether the need for a new P-5 post as reported in paragraph 96.



45. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division) said that the Secretariat had studied various possibilities of coping with the increased workload resulting from implementation of the Manila resolutions; they had not mechanically translated new functions into new posts but had made a partial redeployment of staff resources to undertake the new tasks. However, it was impossible for a unit of only 16 persons to cope with the old and new tasks together, so that despite redeployment, new posts were required.

46. Mr. ADEBANJO (UNCTAD Liaison Officer) said that much of the workload of the division responsible for the economic co-operation among developing countries programme depended on the input of other divisions, the volume of which could not be readily controlled by the division concerned.

8. Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

47. Mr. GODFREY (New Zealand) said that though the increases proposed under programme 8 were some of the largest in the estimates for section 15, he understood that they were totally justified.

48. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) associated himself with that remark. He noted from table 15.24 an increase in the request for general temporary assistance and wished to know, in connexion with the revised proposals for UNCTAD in general, whether any attempt had been made to take account of the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee that general temporary assistance should be shown in global amounts by department or office (A/34/7, para. 23).

49. Mr. DOWSE (United Kingdom) noted with approval that the increases foreseen under consultants (para. 120) and travel of staff (para. 122) were to be achieved by modifying other programmes, without requesting an increase in the over-all provision. He commended that example to other programme managers throughout the United Nations system.

50. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division) said that, in general, the Secretariat did indeed observe the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning temporary assistance, but in the particular circumstances of the present session, deletion of the amount requested for general temporary assistance would have meant reducing the resources available for programme 8 and making them up from other programmes.

51. Mr. HOUNA GOLO (Chad) said it was important that the resources mobilized for the programme in question should profit the countries concerned and not be absorbed by so-called expert costs.

52. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) noted, with reference to the revised programme and budget proposals under section 15 as a whole, that there was a general cost increase of \$185,200 for postage and telephone charges (table 15.3, foot-note e). Since no increase in postal or telephone charges was expected in Switzerland, the higher appropriation requested must be due to an increase in use and was therefore a programme charge rather than a general charge. He also inquired whether the small number of non-recurrent items shown in table 15.5 was correct; it was somewhat surprising in view of the fact that many consultants and experts whose services had been required for the preparation of the fifth session of the Conference were no longer needed.

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53. Mr. BEGIN (Director, Budget Division) agreed that in Geneva the general level of costs increased only slowly; however, it must be remembered that the budget was prepared on global lines and allowance had to be made for cost increases in a multiplicity of items which would occur in various parts of the world during the currency of the proposed budget.

54. The item shown under non-recurrent expenditures for the integrated programme for commodities (table 15.5) was in his view relatively high, in keeping with the resource base. In preparing the budget, an effort had been made to distinguish all non-recurrent items; when the resource base had been prepared, various types of expenditure, on consultants and experts for example, had been assessed initially at zero base and the organizational units concerned had been asked for detailed justification. It was certainly not true that all items classified as non-recurrent were automatically accepted without question.

55. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the revised estimates for section 15 and to approve in first reading the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$50,069,600, together with an appropriation of \$166,800 under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1

56. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$50,069,600 under section 15, together with an appropriation of \$166,800 under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1, was approved in first reading by 84 votes to 8, with 1 abstention.

57. Mr. RAMZY (Egypt) said that, if he had been present when the vote was taken, he would have voted in favour.

58. Mr. DOWSE (United Kingdom) said that he had voted for the recommendation of the Advisory Committee because of the importance which his delegation attached to the work of UNCTAD. However, though the programme proposals just approved contained a number of positive factors, such as economic co-operation among developing countries, he had reservations on the size of the budget proposed and the additional financial implications, which he thought should have been absorbed within the over-all budget.

59. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that he had abstained in the vote because he thought the figure requested was excessive and out of line with the Secretary-General's aim of a zero-growth budget. The appropriation just approved showed a growth of 9 per cent gross or 3.7 per cent net, neither of which was in accordance with the Secretary-General's efforts. There were 11 new posts, which he considered excessive. Furthermore he had received no reply to his question designed to ascertain what effort had been made to comply with General Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX) on the identification of resources released as a result of the completion, reduction, reorganization, merging, elimination or otherwise of United Nations programmes, projects or activities. He also took exception to the reclassification of posts to D-1 and above; he noted that the Advisory Committee had refused to recommend one of the reclassifications requested, and wished that they had been stricter concerning the other two.

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Administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/34/L.16 (Arabic language services); and revised estimates under section 29.B (Conference services, Geneva: Arabic language services for UNCTAD) (A/34/7/Add.14; A/C.5/34/38 and Corr.1; A/C.5/34/46)

60. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the report and the statement on financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/34/38 and 46) involved an amount of \$4,601,600. An amount of \$1,807,800, net of staff assessment, related to UNCTAD. The Advisory Committee had supported the Secretary-General's request in document A/C.5/34/46, concerning Arab language services at Headquarters, but with respect to document A/C.5/34/38, concerning Arab language services for UNCTAD, it had made a recommendation in paragraph 11 of its report, purely for technical reasons, that the standard delayed recruitment deduction of 50 per cent for professional posts and 35 per cent for General Service posts should be applied to the 10 new posts, with a consequential reduction in the estimate of \$404,200. That was the only reduction that the Advisory Committee had recommended in the Secretary-General's estimates. The Advisory Committee accordingly recommended acceptance of total estimates of \$4,196,900, to be divided among sections 29.A, 29.B, and 28.D, as indicated in paragraph 13 of its report.

61. Mr. HAMZAH (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, as indicated in paragraph 4 of document A/C.5/34/46, it was the intention of the General Assembly not to use temporary assistance in meeting the Arabic language workload. His delegation wished to convey to the Secretary-General that it had no faith in temporary assistance, since it had been shown that it was incapable of meeting the workload. He assumed that the financial implications in terms of savings through the elimination of temporary assistance had been taken into account. He felt that paragraph 4 was in fact superfluous. Referring to paragraph 6, he said that his delegation was concerned at the pessimistic attitude adopted by the Secretariat with respect to the difficulties of recruiting a large number of qualified candidates promptly, and the unlikelihood that all the new posts would be filled by the thirty-fifth session. That pessimism was misplaced, and his delegation rejected it. It would be quite unacceptable if the resolution was not fully implemented by the time of the thirty-fifth session. However, he was confident that the Secretary-General would do everything necessary to implement draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.16.

62. Referring to paragraph 5, he noted that the ratio between revisers and translators was 1 reviser for every 3 translators, although the ratio proposed in document A/C.5/34/CRP.11 was 1 reviser for every 2 translators. He also noted from paragraph 5 that there were 4 posts described as P-2/1, although he believed that there were no language posts at the P-1 level. The whole purpose of draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.16 was to ensure qualified staff members for the Arabic language services, and that could certainly not be done if posts were offered at the P-1 level. He understood that all Professional appointments to the Secretariat were at the P-2 level, and that after a two-year period the staff member was given a P-3 post. The P-1 proposal was not consistent with the statement in document A/C.5/34/CRP.11, that it was difficult to fill P-3 language posts; obviously it would be much more difficult to fill P-1 posts. He proposed that the posts should

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(Mr. Hamzah, Syrian Arab Republic)

be at the P-2 or the P-3 level, and that the ratio of revisers to translators should be altered to 1 reviser for every 2 translators. Furthermore, 1 P-5 post should be included so that the Arabic language section would be on a par with all the other sections and the desired proportion between grades would be maintained, to ensure sufficient promotion opportunities. He accordingly proposed that the figures in paragraph 5 should be amended by changing the number of revisers from 10 to 14, including 3 P-5 posts instead of 2, and 11 P-4 posts instead of 8, and that the number of translators should be changed to 22, at the P-2 and P-3 levels, instead of 26. He wished to reserve the right to speak again on the subject.

63. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) said that, since the Advisory Committee had accepted the Secretary-General's proposals, he trusted that at the next session the Secretariat would not claim that they were unable to provide the proper services because of lack of funds or for any other reason. It was now up to the Secretariat to implement draft resolution A/C.5/34/L.16.

64. He did not believe that the Secretariat was correct in saying that it was not possible to find qualified Arabic language staff on the market. He believed the translators and interpreters were interested in security. If the Secretariat was sincere in offering posts to interpreters and translators, they would find the qualified staff. No doubt those responsible, if they did not know Arabic themselves, would find it difficult to assess the capabilities of language staff; in any case, it was not appropriate to leave the choice to a single person, and the recruiting should be carried out by a group. The Secretariat must choose carefully, and there must be no nepotism. He must say that the interpreters now employed to translate from Arabic into French and from French into Arabic were really excellent, and if the future staff were up to that standard the Secretariat would have done very well. Now that the Secretariat had been given the means to provide adequate Arabic language services, his delegation was not prepared to be told at the thirty-fifth session that there were any problems relating to the quality of the service or to its punctuality.

65. Mrs. CESTAC (Director, Translation Division, Department of Conference Services) said, in reply to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, that she did not take a pessimistic view of the prospects for recruitment of Arabic language staff. She was closely connected with recruitment, and although she did not herself know Arabic, she had a special interest in developing that language and in ensuring that it received equal treatment with other languages. An examination for Arabic language staff would be held at the beginning of May 1980, and an oral examination would follow in July. Actual recruitment procedures could begin at the end of August. She therefore believed that it should be possible to fill all the posts concerned within the following few months. She was prepared to accept that challenge. Translators' examinations were conducted under the joint responsibility of the Translation Division and the Office of Personnel Services. The latter would be asked to do all it could to accelerate recruitment action.

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(Mrs. Cestac)

66. Turning to the question of the ratio between revisers and translators, she said she would prefer to give a reply in writing. However, she could say that the ratio of one reviser to three translators was being applied on an experimental basis for all translation services at Headquarters. For mission purposes the ratio was 1 reviser to 2 translators. However, if the request for a change of ratio to 1 reviser to 2 translators, specifically for the Arabic Translation Service for the General Assembly was pressed, the problem would have to be rethought.

67. The representative of Morocco had referred to the quality of the Board of Examiners. Though she could not speak for the Interpretation Division, she could assure him that all competitive qualifying examinations for the recruitment of language staff were conducted at all stages in the most professional manner. Since the Organization needed highly qualified staff, the level of those examinations had to be demanding. The Board of Examiners was made up of very competent persons, including not only linguists - although they were in the majority - but also representatives of the Office of Personnel Services, who had to judge the suitability of the candidates for work in an international organization with all the requirements that that implied. She wished to emphasize that she herself kept a close watch over the examination procedures, and was convinced that the competence of the Board of Examiners left nothing to be desired.

68. Mr. RUEDAS (Assistant Secretary-General for Financial Services) referred to the point made by the Syrian representative about the recruitment of language staff at the P-1 level, and said there was no intention of recruiting translators at that level. The reference to P-1/P-2 posts reflected the standard budgetary practice in the Secretariat whereby P-2 and P-1 posts were shown together, as could be seen by examination of any of the tables in the proposed programme budget.

69. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee in paragraph 13 of its report in document A/34/7/Add.14. They involved a total amount of \$4,196,900 consisting of \$2,267,200 under section 29.A, \$1,403,600 under section 29.B and \$526,100 under section 28.D. In addition an amount of \$869,000 would be required under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1.

70. As no vote had been requested, he would assume that the Committee approved the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

71. It was so decided.

72. Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America) said that he had joined in the consensus because his delegation fully supported improved Arabic language services. However, his delegation could not approve the request for funds because it believed that additional expenses should be offset by savings elsewhere in the budget.

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United Nations Industrial Development Organization: draft resolution referred by the Second Committee to the Fifth Committee for further consideration (A/C.5/34/76, A/C.2/34/L.32)

73. Mr. PAL (India) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/34/L.32, referred by the Second Committee to the Fifth Committee, on behalf of the Group of 77. A series of resolutions had been adopted in 1978 and 1979, by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session, and by the Economic and Social Council, relating to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). He referred in particular to section IV of General Assembly resolution 33/78, calling for suitable measures to be carried out, in accordance with established practice, including consideration by the Industrial Development Board when required, to strengthen, within the secretariat of UNIDO, its activities relating to the development of the technological capability of and the transfer of technology to the developing countries in the industrial field. The resolution also reaffirmed support for the co-operative programme of action being undertaken by UNIDO, and requested the Industrial Development Board (IDB) to suggest ways for further action in that sphere.

74. IDB and the Economic and Social Council had drawn up a detailed work programme which had been endorsed by the Council, and detailed financial implications had been set forth (A/C.2/34/L.72), consisting of \$1,200,000 for the system of consultations, \$861,000 for the Industrial and Technological Information Bank, and \$1,272,000 for technical assistance. Some concern had been expressed over the inclusion of those figures in the draft resolution, but they were the amounts called for by the work programme. The provision in the budget, on the other hand, was \$351,600 for the consultation system, \$211,900 for the Industrial and Technological Information Bank, and nothing whatever for technical assistance.

75. Throughout the debate on the budget the developing countries had expressed the fear that the Secretariat, in trying to achieve zero growth in the budget, might be tempted to sacrifice programmes, and the present instance was a perfect example. The Group of 77 had been forced to submit the present draft resolution because the Second Committee had been confronted with the situation at the beginning of the session. The work programme was not new, and its financial implications, although known, had not been presented to the Fifth Committee in the proposed programme budget. The draft resolution as it stood had caused problems because it was not technically correct to submit proposals incorporating specific financial implications. Accordingly, to bring its resolution into line with normal practice, the Group of 77 had decided to revise operative paragraph 3 to read: "Requests the Secretary-General, accordingly, to submit, during the thirty-fourth session, proposals for the proposed programme budget for 1980-1981 that would enable the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to execute the programmes on the consultation system, the Industrial and Technological Information Bank, and technical assistance, approved by the Industrial Development Board and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council."

76. In addition the Group of 77 had been asked by the countries of the European Economic Community to amend the fifth preambular paragraph by adding at the end, after the words "end of the century" the words "as called for in the Lima Declaration". The sponsors of the draft resolution had accepted that amendment.

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(Mr. Pal, India)

77. He hoped the Committee would now see why it had been necessary to submit an extraordinary draft resolution to deal with an extraordinary situation. The Group of 77 trusted that the resolution could be adopted without delay, and that the Secretary-General would submit more realistic financial implications that could be adopted before the close of the session.

78. The CHAIRMAN, replying to a question by Mr. PAPENDORP (United States of America), said that the Fifth Committee would consider the draft resolution when the statement of financial implications had been submitted by the Secretariat.

The meeting rose at 7.10 p.m.