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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (Cameroon)

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

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A/C.5/40/SR.30
12 November 1985

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 124: UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (continued) (A/40/30 and 653; A/C.5/40/26 and 44)

1. Mr. EFIMOV (Joint Inspection Unit), introducing the Joint Inspection Unit's follow-up report on staff costs in the United Nations Secretariat (A/40/653), said that the report was intended to provide the Fifth Committee with more information about the circumstances in which the July 1984 decision of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) had been taken, the ICSC's application of its mandate in taking that decision and the consequent implications, the methodology used for comparison purposes, and the activities and campaigns of the staff in that connection. While decisions on remuneration undoubtedly affected the staff of all the United Nations organizations, in the inspectors' opinion, the General Assembly was the only legislative body in the entire system with responsibility for taking such decisions. ICSC was authorized to decide only with regard to post adjustments and then within the limits set by the General Assembly. All other ICSC actions on questions of remuneration were recommendations to the Assembly, and if the Assembly adopted them all the other organizations in the system should implement them. In principle, the specialized agencies had no power to take decisions on remuneration that conflicted with those of the General Assembly as separate decisions would be a violation of agreements signed between the United Nations and the specialized agencies. It was with that in mind, and in order to strengthen the established order, that the General Assembly had adopted resolution 33/119.
2. It was unfortunate, therefore, that in July 1984 the Administrative Council of ITU should have adopted the resolution reproduced in annex IX of the ICSC report (A/40/30). To preclude the adoption of conflicting resolutions by the governing bodies of other specialized agencies, Ministries sending delegates to those bodies and Ministries of Foreign Affairs should co-ordinate their positions on matters affecting the common system. It would also be useful for the General Assembly to renew the call made to Member States in its resolution 33/119.
3. It was obvious that the documents before the Committee reflected views and positions that would be very difficult to reconcile. Careful and objective review was needed, therefore, before the appropriate decisions could be taken. The Joint Inspection Unit accordingly recommended that the Fifth Committee should, as on former occasions, establish a special committee of governmental experts to consider and evaluate all the information presented on the subject by all concerned. The special committee's terms of reference should include the remuneration issue in all aspects, as well as some relevant features of the salary system of the comparator civil service, as suggested by the Secretary-General, and the expatriation factor, the operation of the post adjustment system, the proposed long-service step and other matters suggested by staff bodies. It could also take up other questions affecting the conditions of service and efficiency of the staff. The proposed committee should be able to submit its recommendations through ICSC to the General Assembly at its next session and, if adopted, they could serve as guidelines for all the organizations of the common system and thus clarify the situation in regard to remuneration as well as strengthen the system itself.

(Mr. Efimov)

4. The Joint Inspection Unit would welcome criticism on the substance of its report designed to contribute to an objective consideration of the problems raised. The inspectors had done their best in preparing the report to analyse the situation objectively, with no intention of offending any of the parties mentioned. In their comments on the report, however, those parties rejected almost everything it contained and suggested that no action need be taken on the inspectors' recommendations on salary matters. The authors of the report had been subjected to harsh attacks and accused of casting aspersions on the impartiality and independence of ICSC and of impugning the integrity of its secretariat. Nevertheless, they had believed it was their duty to draw attention to the ICSC decision of July 1984, the partial implementation of which had resulted in unjustified additional expense for Member States. Those expenses might have been much higher if the Commission had not revoked the second part of the decision.

5. There was nothing in the report that encroached upon the freedoms of association and expression of staff representatives. It did however contain an appeal to the General Assembly to ensure that staff activities in exercise of those freedoms conformed to the code of law existing in the Organization. In many cases, those activities had gone beyond that code as it was expressed in the Staff Regulations established by the General Assembly and the Staff Rules put into effect by the Secretary-General to implement the Staff Regulations.

6. Mr. ZYSS (Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (FICSA)), introducing FICSA's comments on the International Civil Service Commission's report (A/C.5/40/26), said that FICSA attached great importance to the work of ICSC and had been greatly surprised by the General Assembly's failure, at its last session, to accept a number of the recommendations put forward by it after thorough consultation with all the parties involved. FICSA was concerned at the probable long-range effect of deteriorating conditions of service on the work of the organizations of the common system, and hence on the assistance that could be provided to Member States in many areas, in particular development-oriented activities.

7. If the Commission's far-reaching proposals on the establishment of a desirable range for the margin between the remuneration of the comparator civil service, the United States federal civil service, and the United Nations common system, and on the operation of the post adjustment system within that range, were adopted, the system would become exceedingly rigid and totally dependent on the domestic policies of the comparator country. FICSA believed that if a margin was to be quantified with precision, two conditions must be satisfied: its magnitude should be defined on the basis of objective criteria and the comparison between United States and United Nations salaries should be made with the utmost accuracy. Neither of those conditions was currently met. The Commission had made no technical study of the rationale behind the margin, the various elements that explained its necessity and the value to be attached to them. The fact that such a study would not be easy was no reason why it should not be undertaken. The ICSC's recommendation was based solely on proposals that had emerged from a number of review bodies, some of them 30 years old, and on what the margin had been on the

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(Mr. Zyss)

average in the past. It ought to have made a thorough inquiry into the adequacy of the margin it proposed and the reasons why the margin had widened so considerably in recent years. It should have addressed the question of whether a margin which might have been satisfactory 10 or 20 years still so. It should also have studied the effect of the proposed system in duty stations other than New York, where 85 per cent of the Professional staff served. In many duty stations, particularly in the field, the compensation package offered by the comparator civil service was considerably more favourable than that offered by the common system.

8. A detailed account of the methodology used by ICSC in comparing United Nations salary levels and those of the comparator appeared in annex I of its report (A/40/30). That methodology should be thoroughly re-examined before any final decisions were taken and implemented. If the margin was to be fixed with mathematical precision, the method of its calculation must be equally precise. Paragraphs 52 and 56 of the ICSC report contained convincing arguments why the comparison should be made using average remuneration at each grade rather than remuneration at step 1 as was the current practice. In paragraphs 68 to 79, ICSC mentioned the existence in the comparator service of various pay systems which were more favourable than its general schedule. Those systems and their significance for the salary scales of the common system should be analysed in the light of the Noblemaire principle. The ICSC should also consider whether a comparison based on total compensation was not more appropriate than comparisons based on net remuneration only. FICSA was convinced that the subject required further study before the Assembly took a final decision and noted with interest that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had expressed a similar opinion (A/C.5/40/41).

9. The staff were also concerned about developments relating to pensionable remuneration for the Professional and higher categories. Pensionable remuneration had been reduced in 1984, without adequate transitional measures, and the adjustment mechanism provided for in article 54 (b) of the Pension Fund regulations had been suspended. ICSC had been invited, in co-operation with the Joint Staff Pension Board, to review the methodology for the determination of pensionable remuneration and the procedure for adjustment, but had been unable to perform the task in time for the current session of the General Assembly. The situation was thus in flux and staff members due to retire shortly did not even know what their benefits would be. FICSA had already expressed serious doubts about the methodology adopted for establishing the new scale of pensionable remuneration at the previous session of the General Assembly. It did not believe that it was appropriate to link pensionable remuneration of the common system to the pension benefits of one national system, which could always be changed for reasons of domestic policy. That had, in fact, happened, and if the scheme due to replace the current United States civil service retirement scheme was to be on the lines described in paragraph 20 of the ICSC report, it would not be a suitable basis on which to establish United Nations pensionable remuneration. Alternative methodologies should be explored under which pensionable remuneration would be derived from the common system's own salary scales. ICSC should therefore be requested to work in that direction, in close co-operation with the Pension Board, with a view to presenting a revised methodology to the General Assembly at its next session.

(Mr. Zyss)

10. Both ICSC and the Pension Board had recommended that the suspension of the adjustment procedure decided on by the General Assembly at its previous session should be extended for another year. The staff found that proposal unsatisfactory. A regular mechanism for adjusting pensionable remuneration was essential, both to maintain the actuarial balance of the Pension Fund and to ensure equal treatment of participants retiring on different dates. FICSA therefore urged the Committee to abide by its previous decision to suspend the adjustment procedure for only one year.

11. As far as transitional measures were concerned, FICSA believed that the proposal made to the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly by ICSC, and reconfirmed at the current session by the Pension Board in paragraph 68 of its report (A/40/9) was the only one in keeping with the practice in the United Nations system of protecting acquired rights.

12. The status of women in the international civil service had long been of special concern to FICSA. It therefore welcomed the excellent recommendations on special measures for the recruitment of women in paragraphs 245-247 of the ICSC report. The initiative already taken by the United Nations in appointing a Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat was welcome, as was the personal involvement of all the executive heads who had discussed the issue at the recent session of ACC. FICSA was confident that, with the support of Member States, the imbalance could be redressed and the point reached where men and women would participate in conditions of equality in all organizations of the common system.

13. The ICSC's proposals concerning the long-service step, maintained from the previous year, were in paragraph 174 of its report. FICSA believed that it would be illogical and unfair to continue to deprive staff members in most organizations of a benefit that the ICSC believed should be granted to them simply because their colleagues in a few other organizations already enjoyed more favourable treatment. It hoped, therefore, that the Fifth Committee would find it possible to approve the ICSC proposal at the current session. It also commended to the Committee's attention the proposals in paragraphs 180-182 on support for staff with disabled dependants.

14. FICSA regretted that the Joint Inspection Unit had found it necessary, for the second consecutive year, to comment on issues that were within the competence of ICSC and with which the latter was much better equipped to deal, in consultation with the organizations and with staff representatives. In addition to containing many errors of fact and misinterpretations, the JIU report (A/40/653) contained unwarranted and ill-founded attacks on the integrity of staff representatives, the ICSC secretariat and staff members holding responsible managerial positions. It also attacked the very foundations of orderly judicial procedures and the freedom of association of the staff in international organizations. FICSA considered that the report offered no basis for the Fifth Committee's deliberations but merely added confusion to what were already complex and difficult subjects.

(Mr. Zyss)

15. The commitment of FICSA to improving conditions of service in the field was well known. While it recognized that much progress had been achieved in recent years and that ICSC had done much to that end, it believed that many further improvements were called for. It intended to make suggestions to that effect to the next session of ICSC.

16. The report of the Secretary-General on respect for the privileges and immunities of officials of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and related organizations (A/C.5/40/25) pointed to a welcome improvement in regard to the security of staff working for the organizations of the United Nations system. In many instances, the organizations had been able to exercise the right of functional protection of their staff or to obtain the release of the detained officials. On the other hand, FICSA noted with concern that 30 officials of the United Nations organizations were still detained or reported missing. It appreciated the efforts of the Secretary-General and his colleagues in that regard and trusted that they would continue. FICSA also hoped that the General Assembly would reiterate its appeal to Member States to respect fully the privileges and immunities of international officials.

17. Mr. GURUNLIAN (Co-ordinating Committee for Independent Staff Unions and Associations of the United Nations System) introduced his organization's comments on issues related to the common system (A/C.5/40/44). As the representative of some 25,000 staff members, including most of the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters and in the field, the Co-ordinating Committee felt that it had an important role to play in bringing its concerns regarding the issues under discussion to the Committee's attention. Its primary objective was to ensure that the work of the Organization was carried out efficiently and in conformity with the principles of independence and integrity set forth in the Charter. It was also essential that the international civil service should be free from political considerations and that its first loyalty should be to the United Nations itself. The Co-ordinating Committee was therefore convinced of the need for a core of career-service personnel whose conditions of service were stable over time and determined with technical objectivity.

18. Unfortunately, much of the discussion surrounding the conditions of service for the common system had consisted of attacks not only on the international civil service but on the organizations and institutions of the system itself. At the same time, the staff had witnessed a considerable deterioration in their conditions of employment, resulting in low morale and anxiety about the future.

19. The most gravely affected of the legitimate expectations of the serving staff had been in regard to pensions. The system had been faced with the serious issue of the actuarial deficit of the Pension Fund. The resulting major cuts in benefits, together with the lowering of pensionable remuneration, had had a dramatic negative impact. The Co-ordinating Committee believed that any further reductions in the current benefit system would be disastrous for staff morale. It therefore urged the Assembly to announce that stability had been restored, and to approve an increased rate of contribution of up to 24 per cent in three steps. He

(Mr. Gurunlian)

noted in that connection that the rate of contribution in other institutions, such as the World Bank and the United States federal civil service, was much higher than 24 per cent, and that the rate in the International Monetary Fund was 36.5 per cent of gross salary, of which 29.5 per cent was borne by the employer.

20. The Co-ordinating Committee was opposed to linking pensionable remuneration to the system of the comparator civil service. The differences between the two were obvious: the United Nations system had to compensate for the lack of a social security system and it had to pay pensions in a multitude of fluctuating currencies. The United States civil service pension system was undergoing a major revision and the time had come for the United Nations to design a methodology that responded to its own needs. In the meantime, the suspension of article 54 (b) of the Pension Fund Regulations should be discontinued.

21. On the problem of the remuneration of Professional staff, the Co-ordinating Committee considered that as long as the margin between United Nations remuneration and that of the comparator service was an indicative figure, the method used to calculate it was not very important. Since the margin ceiling was currently being used to justify the freezing of post adjustment throughout the system, however, it was imperative that the method of calculation should be totally reliable. The Co-ordinating Committee was convinced that the method used so far was incorrect and that ICSC should be invited to revise it.

22. ICSC recommended that a range of 110-120 should be fixed for the margin of net remuneration. A decision with such far-reaching implications for the whole system should not have been taken without an in-depth study of its long- and short-term effects and without the benefit of at least an analysis of the practice of the comparator country regarding the margin used for its own nationals posted abroad. When postings outside the United States were compared, it was obvious that, all over the world, international civil servants were paid less than their counterparts in the comparator service. Unfortunately, it would not be practical to use United States foreign service salaries as a basis for the United Nations because the samples used for comparison would be relatively small. The implication was, however, that United Nations remuneration was far from excessive and that if the international organizations wished to be able to recruit and retain the highly qualified personnel needed in all countries of the world, including the comparator country, the level of the ceiling of the margin should be re-examined and the freeze imposed on New York post adjustment discontinued.

23. The weakening of the consultation process between the staff and the legislative organs that had become visible at the last session of the General Assembly threatened to undermine staff confidence and morale. In many countries, the staff of the national civil service negotiated its conditions of employment with its employer. Although the international civil service did not do so, the staff was at least able to make itself heard on the issues during the consultation process provided for by subsidiary bodies such as ICSC and the Pension Board. As long as the Fifth Committee respected the recommendations of those organs, the process could be said to be sound. When it disagreed with the recommendations,

(Mr. Gurunlian)

reopened an issue and itself reviewed it in detail, however, the consultation process became ineffective. At its last session, the Fifth Committee had established two working groups, one on pensions and the other on post adjustment, to which no staff representatives had been admitted, not even as observers. While recognizing that the decision on the ICSC recommendations lay with the Fifth Committee, the Co-ordinating Committee appealed to the Assembly to ensure that a meaningful consultation process was maintained. It respectfully suggested that if the Fifth Committee could not agree with a recommendation of ICSC or of the Pension Board, the matter should be referred back to the bodies themselves for further consideration.

24. With regard to the controversial JIU report on staff costs and some aspects of utilization of human and financial resources in the United Nations Secretariat (A/39/522 and Corr.1) and the follow-up report prepared by the inspectors (A/40/653), it was clear that criticism was indispensable to ensure that the Organization remained responsive to needs and requirements in a fast-changing world and that the resources put at its disposal were used in a prudent manner. Unfortunately, the report of the two inspectors had cast aspersions on the integrity and competence of high-level administrators and the ICSC secretariat, distorted the motives of staff representatives and, finally, questioned the validity of judgements of the Administrative Tribunal even before they had been rendered. The inaccuracy of the information on which the inspectors had based their conclusions and the partiality of their views disqualified the report as a basis for serious discussion. The issues of the common system were complex, requiring more than a personal viewpoint, and the Co-ordinating Committee therefore strongly urged the Assembly to invite the Joint Inspection Unit not to interfere in matters within the province of ICSC.

25. With regard to the status of women, the Co-ordinating Committee welcomed the proposals to improve inter-agency co-operation in recruiting women, particularly for posts at policy-making levels. However, it was obvious that more could be done and good intentions must now be backed up with concrete targets and effective monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance.

26. Concerning the recommendation to grant one additional step to those staff members who had been at the bottom of their grade for over five years, the Co-ordinating Committee would have preferred the introduction of more than one step but did not underestimate the positive psychological effect which the present recommendation would achieve. It therefore trusted that the Fifth Committee would endorse that low-cost measure.

27. The Co-ordinating Committee was gratified to note the recommendations made by ICSC on support for staff with disabled dependants. The extension of the age limit for the payment of education grants and better coverage for special rehabilitation equipment and travel were highly necessary, and the United Nations should set an example in that respect.

(Mr. Gurunlian)

28. On the question of conditions of service in the field, the Co-ordinating Committee welcomed the progress made by ICSC. The changes in entitlements were undoubtedly a positive step. Unfortunately, housing and education expenses continued to be a major problem for staff serving in the field and, although some organizations had made progress in that regard, there was a need for a more co-ordinated approach to provide housing, especially in those isolated areas where it was not readily available. That problem should be dealt with by ICSC as a matter of priority.

29. On the subject of safety and security, many staff members continued to work in difficult and even dangerous conditions in various parts of the world, and the increasing number of cases involving assassination or abduction by armed groups, particularly in the Middle East, was a source of concern. While the situation had worsened in certain areas, there was an indication of improvement in others. It was particularly gratifying that there had been a change in the policy of the host country of the Economic Commission for Africa; there, two imprisoned staff members had been granted amnesty and the cases of two others were currently under review. A number of staff members nevertheless continued to be held in prison in various countries in contravention of the principle of the immunity of international civil servants, to which all States theoretically subscribed. The Co-ordinating Committee remained active in supporting efforts to secure full compliance with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. In conclusion, on the fortieth anniversary of the Organization, there was a greater need than ever to revitalize the efforts of the staff with a view to accomplishing the purposes and principles for which the United Nations had been founded.

AGENDA ITEMS 116 AND 117: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1986-1987 AND PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/40/3, 6, 7, 38 and Add.1, and A/40/262)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/40/L.11 concerning agenda item 28 (A/C.5/40/43)

30. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had no objection to the additional requirement of \$113,400 requested in the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/40/43) with regard to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/40/L.11.

31. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/40/L.11, an additional appropriation of \$113,400 would be required under section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987.

32. It was so decided.

33. Mr. KAMALUDDIN (Afghanistan) said that, as in previous years, the General Assembly had been drawn into a fruitless discussion of the so-called situation in

(Mr. Kamaluddin, Afghanistan)

Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security. In the General Committee, his delegation had already voiced its objection to the inclusion of that item in the agenda of the fortieth session. It had always supported the efforts of the Secretary-General and his personal representative, but felt that no useful result could be achieved by the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document A/40/L.11, which would constitute interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State in violation of the Charter. Such a resolution could in no way be regarded as binding on the Government of Afghanistan. If a vote had been taken, his delegation would have voted against the proposal just adopted.

First reading (continued)

Section 2B. Disarmament affairs activities

34. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee's recommendation to reduce the 1986-1987 estimate in section 2B by \$103,600 was explained in paragraph 2B.5 of its report. When considering document A/40/38/Add.1, the Advisory Committee had noted that paragraphs 2 to 6 contained a number of comments on the recommendations made by CPC in paragraphs 604 and 606 of its report, and it had been informed that the financial implications would not be established definitively in respect of the recommendation in paragraph 604 until later in the session, when the General Assembly had considered the question of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

35. Mr. CABRIC (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination) drew the Committee's attention to the summary of the discussion that had taken place in CPC on section 2B which could be found in the relevant part of its report, and in particular to the views expressed in paragraphs 67 to 70, 73 and 74. The recommendations of CPC were contained in paragraphs 601 to 608 of its report, the most important being those in paragraph 604, regarding the inclusion of a new programme element 1.9 to reflect the full range of activities carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs; in paragraph 606, regarding the deletion of output (iv) from programme element 2.3; and, in paragraph 607, concerning the revision of the title of programme element 5.1 and the listing of its output as intermediate output. The Committee had further recommended (para. 582) that the Secretary-General should submit a report on mailing lists and registers maintained by the United Nations.

36. Mr. KRAMER (United States of America) said that, while his country supported the role of the Organization in the field of disarmament and the priority attributed to it, the rate of real growth in section 2B was unjustified and belied the assurances of limited growth given when the Department for Disarmament Affairs had been established. A review of costs was called for, particularly in view of the potential overlapping and duplication and the high proportion of resources devoted to information activities. Additional requirements for external printing and binding could, for instance, have been avoided. Under subprogramme 4, (Training in disarmament), 15 per cent of the programme total had been budgeted for

(Mr. Kramer, United States)

25 disarmament fellowships, as against only 5.1 per cent in 1984-1985, and he wished to know why costs appeared to have trebled for the same output. His delegation objected to the way in which the legitimate concerns of Member States were being exploited to increase resources for the Department for Disarmament Affairs, and called for a recorded vote on the appropriation under section 2B.

37. Mr. VAN DEN HOUT (Netherlands) said that his delegation supported the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, but had reservations about certain aspects of the implementation of subprogramme 5, (World Disarmament Campaign) and the basis of its financing. Accordingly, it would abstain in the vote.

38. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said he was not surprised that questions had been raised in CPC regarding the proportions of regular budget resources and voluntary contributions for subprogramme 5, whose resource requirement of more than \$1.5 million represented a significant part of the overall appropriation. In that regard, he sought clarification of the statement in paragraph 73 of the CPC report that only those additional activities undertaken since 1982 would be financed from extrabudgetary resources. He would also be grateful for information about the results of the recent pledging conference held for the World Disarmament Campaign and how the pledges made would affect the financing of subprogramme 5.

39. Mr. ANNAN (Director, Budget Division), referring to the fellowships in subprogramme 4, said that the percentage differences in programme totals between two successive bienniums reflected the fact that the 1984-1985 programme budget had incorporated staff resources only, whereas the budget estimates for 1986-1987 consolidated resource requirements, including those for disarmament fellowships. As to the questions raised by the United Kingdom representative, prior to 1982 the regular budget had covered expenditures relating to the Disarmament Week, regional conferences and training; thereafter, voluntary contributions had been used to cover the Disarmament Fact Sheets and Newsletter. With regard to recent pledges for the World Disarmament Campaign, he would endeavour to provide the Committee with details as soon as possible.

40. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee first to take a decision on the recommendations of CPC relating to section 2B and then to proceed to a recorded vote, as requested by the United States representative, on the appropriation under that section recommended by the Advisory Committee.

41. The recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination contained in paragraphs 601 to 608 of its report (A/40/38, Part II) were adopted.

42. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that he had misgivings about some of the programme elements described in section 2B, particularly regarding the nature of information activities and the degree of duplication and overlapping. Accordingly, he would abstain in the vote on section 2B.

43. Mr. NTSAMA (Cameroon) said that his delegation was firmly committed to the goals of disarmament and would unreservedly support the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee.

44. At the request of the representative of the United States, a recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

45. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$9,359,800 under section 2B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 was approved in first reading by 92 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions.

46. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that while his delegation attached great importance to effective work in the disarmament field, high priority did not necessarily mean that the high level of resources had to be high also. The real growth rate in resources for section 2B had certainly declined but it remained high in relation to that of other sections. His delegation also had reservations regarding subprogramme 5 (World Disarmament Campaign) and how the Campaign was to be financed. Accordingly it had abstained.

47. Mr. HOLBORN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation had abstained because it, too had reservations concerning that subprogramme.

48. Mr. VAHER (Canada) said that although his delegation was committed to disarmament it had abstained because it considered a growth rate of 1.9 per cent to be too high. It, too, had reservations concerning how subprogramme 5 was to be financed.

49. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination contained in paragraphs 609-611 of its report (A/40/38).

50. A recorded vote was taken on the recommendation of CPC contained in paragraph 611 of its report (A/40/38).

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

51. The recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination contained in paragraph 611 of its report was adopted by 97 votes to 2.

52. The recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination contained in paragraphs 609 and 610 of its report were adopted.

Section 3. Political affairs, trusteeship and decolonization

53. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium), prefacing his remarks by the statement that they did not apply to the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia or the Centre against Apartheid and that his aim was merely to encourage Members to reflect, pointed out that, in 1959 when decolonization activities remained largely in the future the staff of the Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization had numbered 93. By 1970, that number had been reduced to 55. It

(Mr. Pirson, Belgium)

seemed strange that at a time when the main goal of the Department had largely been achieved an increase in the staffing level, to 62, was being requested. Some of the new activities being entrusted to the Department had little to do with decolonization and, while he had nothing against such activities, it was important to make sure that they were assigned to the most appropriate organizational unit. Accordingly, he suggested that the Joint Inspection Unit should be asked to consider the overall activities of the Department so that the Committee could determine whether the amounts requested corresponded to the implementation of the Department's real mandate.

54. Mr. KRAMER (United States of America) pointed out that the \$22.8 million requested did not include the substantial add-ons and non-recurrent expenditures which could be expected. However, most additional expenditure was classified as non-recurrent and was not reflected in the real growth rate as defined by the Secretariat.

55. The consolidation of the Department's output into four subprogrammes did not give an adequate picture of how much funding was going to each programme. Perhaps that information could be provided. Moreover, the wording of the last part of paragraph 3.27, "as well as on any other issues that the Secretary-General may assign to the Department" made it appear as though the Secretary-General could use subprogramme 4 as a slush fund. Referring to paragraph 3.30 on temporary posts, he said that since the number of trust territories had not increased there was no reason for the number of posts to increase.

56. He asked for an estimate of the resources allocated for Namibia under section 3B. It would appear that substantial savings could be achieved in respect of the Council for Namibia. He also asked what the estimated requirements of the Council were in respect of documentation.

57. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that he found the method of presentation of the section hard to follow; activities involving Namibia seemed to recur in various places. He requested clarification of the nature of the activities referred to in paragraph 3.31 and confirmation that the temporary posts relating to those activities remained essential. Finally he asked what relationship there was between the posts referred to in paragraph 3.30 (c) and those referred to in paragraph 2A.24.

58. Mr. GREGG (Australia) agreed with the representative of Belgium that the work-load of the Department had changed substantially in the past 20 years. At the same time, the Department provided a range of important services including those relating to Namibia. While his delegation was committed to the activities of the Department it recognized the importance of identifying all areas in which resources were underutilized. The representative of Belgium appeared to have identified one such area. He requested information regarding the work-load and responsibilities of the various sections within the Department so as to assist the Committee in identifying other such areas.

59. Mr. ANNAN (Director, Budget Division) said that while the Department's decolonization activities had certainly dropped sharply new activities had been assigned to it. Fact-finding and good offices accounted for 20 per cent of the Department's resources. The figures cited by the representative of Belgium would seem to indicate that the diminishing activities had not been reflected in a corresponding decline in the number of staff. The Secretariat would certainly undertake a critical review of the situation.
60. He pointed out that about 25 per cent of the funds allocated to subprogramme 1 were related to the Namibia programme. Replying to the question put by the representative of the United Kingdom, he said that the activities referred to in paragraph 3.31 were based on a mandate of the General Assembly which was reviewed annually. So far that mandate had been renewed. If the mandate were to be revoked there would be no need for the posts referred to. The activities referred to in paragraph 3.30 (c) had nothing to do with those referred to in paragraph 2A.24.
61. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the two new posts referred to in paragraph 3.30 (a) of the proposed programme budget had been agreed to by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 3.10 of its report. However, in its submission regarding the item on Kampuchea the Advisory Committee had not approved the establishment of two temporary posts (one D-1 and a General Service post). The posts requested in paragraph 3.30 (a) would also be available for Kampuchea activities.
62. Mr. KRAMER (United States of America) said, with reference to section 3C, that his Government did not accept the South West Africa People's Organization as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people. It believed that only the Namibians, in a free election as provided for in Security Council resolution 435 (1978) could determine their authentic representative. In the meantime the role of the United Nations should be to promote the interests of the Namibian people as a whole. Moreover, he found the cost of the subprogramme excessive. Much of the travel referred to in paragraph 3.63 could be combined, and substantial savings could be achieved if the Council met at Headquarters. The Council was not one of those bodies listed in the draft resolution on the pattern of conferences as entitled to meet away from Headquarters.
63. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision in first reading on the appropriation for section 3 as a whole.
64. At the request of the representative of the United States, a recorded vote was taken.
- In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea,

Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

65. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation in the amount of \$22,794,900 under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 was approved in first reading by 100 votes to 2.

66. Mr. HERIJANTO (Indonesia) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the appropriation on the understanding that the wording of paragraph 3.25 would be revised as recommended in paragraph 610 of the report of CPC. At the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly his delegation had expressed strong objections to the inclusion of activities relating to East Timor in the revised medium-term plan. Those activities were reflected in paragraph 3.30 (a). Accordingly, his delegation objected to the inclusion of East Timor as one of the responsibilities assigned to the proposed new D-1 post.

67. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that, while his delegation had no difficulties with subsections 3A and 3E, it felt that in too many cases the funds appropriated were disproportionate to the product. That applied in particular to the travel appropriations for the two special committees and the Council for Namibia. At the same time it strongly supported the activities against apartheid. On the whole, it had been struck by the inverse proportion of staff to and discernible work-load in the Department.

68. Mr. HOLBORN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that while his delegation had voted in favour of the appropriation for section 3 it was concerned at the amount of resources allocated for travel.

69. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that his delegation's opposition to apartheid remained unchanged. However, it had not participated in the vote on section 3 since it had reservations regarding the misuse of funds appropriated under that section to promote a political campaign against Israel.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.