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Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
46th meeting
held on
Friday, 14 December 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 46th MEETING

Chairman:

Mr. MAYCOCK

(Barbados)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 118: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991 (continued)

Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission and Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (continued) (A/45/7/Add.13; A/C.5/45/21 and A/C.5/45/L.6)

1. Draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.6 was adopted without a vote.

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/45/L.34/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 117 (A/C.5/45/72)

2. Mr. MSALLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that document A/C.5/45/72 indicated that there would be a resumed session of the General Assembly for two weeks in April 1991; however, the duration of the session would now be one week. As the Secretary-General had not requested an additional appropriation, the adoption of draft resolution A/45/L.34/Rev.1 would not entail an additional provision under the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, and conference-servicing costs would be absorbed.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee decided, without a vote, to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/45/L.34/Rev.1, no additional appropriation would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

4. It was so decided.

Optical disc storage and retrieval system (A/C.5/45/58)

5. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should defer to the forty-sixth session consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the optical disc storage and retrieval system (A/C.5/45/58).

6. He also suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that the Advisory Committee should be empowered to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for additional requirements necessary for 1991, on the understanding that the additional appropriations would have first call on the contingency fund at the forty-sixth session.

7. Mr. BAZAN (Chile) said that the optical disc system offered great advantages and therefore deserved full support. Those advantages should not be confined to the United Nations Offices in New York and Geneva, but should also be extended to the regional commissions. In order to be universally applicable, the system must be compatible with all known computer systems. He therefore proposed that the Secretariat should hold consultations with permanent missions in order to determine their needs. Those consultations should be reflected in a new proposal by the

(Mr. Bagan, Chile)

Secretariat, the financial implications of which should be considered in due course by the Fifth Committee.

8. Mr. MORDACO (France) said that he had been disappointed by document A/C.5/45/58, which provided little of the information requested by the General Assembly in resolution 44/201 B. Of even greater concern was the fact that, nearly one year after the adoption of that resolution, the Secretariat had made scant progress in the implementation of the system. The bidding process had been initiated only at the end of November 1990; in view of the time needed for the bids to be submitted and examined, a decision could not be reached until some time during the first quarter of 1991, and the firm selected to install the system could not begin work until the following summer.

9. He deeply regretted the Secretariat's delay in implementing a clear General Assembly decision, especially since that decision involved a technical project of recognised sophistication which entailed long-term savings for the Organisation. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/44/684) had drawn a particularly positive picture of the results of the pilot project carried out in Geneva, and had requested that the system should be implemented as quickly as possible.

10. The Committee had just learned that the project could not be financed, and that a decision could not be taken at the current session. He found it surprising that it should be so difficult to establish a financing plan for a project estimated at only \$1.2 million, especially in view of the rapid adoption at the forty-third session of the Integrated Management Information System, which had involved an amount of \$28 million. He also could not understand how the financing of the project could be postponed for another year, since the call for bids had already been issued and a firm was to be selected in early 1991.

11. Mr. KALBITZER (Germany) said that he would appreciate clarification of the Chairman's suggestions. With regard to the contingency fund for the biennium 1992-1993, he questioned whether the General Assembly could take any decision concerning a budget which had not yet been discussed. Lastly, he wondered whether the Chairman had referred to the summary of financial implications in section VII of document A/C.5/45/58.

12. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) noted that the Chairman was suggesting that detailed consideration of document A/C.5/45/58 should be postponed to the forty-sixth session. If the Fifth Committee accepted that suggestion, the Secretary-General could, after the completion of the budgetary process, seek authorisation from the Advisory Committee for the necessary resources for the biennium 1990-1991, and it would not be difficult for the Advisory Committee to consider that request.

13. With regard to the question raised by Germany, the contingency fund for the biennium 1992-1993 had not yet been approved by the Fifth Committee for transmission to the General Assembly in the context of the budget outline for the biennium 1992-1993. However, it was the contingency fund for the biennium 1990-1991 which would be relevant.

14. Mr. BAZAN (Chile) said that he wished to elaborate on his proposal in case consideration of the matter was deferred to the next session, which would be regrettable. Referring to paragraph 19 of document A/C.5/45/58, he said that since many permanent missions had computer systems which were not IRM-compatible, the cost of adapting the missions' systems would be much greater than the cost of installing equipment for the United Nations which was compatible with the missions' systems. He proposed that the Committee should recommend that the Secretariat should be requested to conduct consultations with permanent missions in order to determine the appropriateness of making its computer system compatible with the permanent missions' systems, and to report on the matter to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

15. Mr. FOX (United States of America) said that he regretted that the project could not be fully approved at the current session. He would appreciate confirmation of his understanding that accepting the Chairman's suggestions would not delay the implementation of the optical disc system.

16. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the Chilean proposal did not raise any problems. With regard to financing, it was the understanding of the Secretariat that in addition to the use of extrabudgetary resources, for which authorisation from the General Assembly was not required, there would also be a redeployment of resources from section 1 to section 29. The question whether the Secretary-General would be authorized to enter into further commitments of up to \$400,000 would be considered by the Advisory Committee at its spring session of 1991.

17. Mr. PATTERSON (Director and Chief Editor, Editorial and Official Records Division, Department of Conference Services) said that for a number of reasons it had not been possible to report to the Fifth Committee that the project had been fully implemented. Firstly, the pilot project which had been carried out in Geneva had been of limited application and had not provided all the information necessary to proceed with a fully operational project. Such a project could not be implemented for all the major conference centres of the United Nations simply by multiplying the installation at Geneva. Secondly, in 1989 the project strategy had shifted from the storage of documents in image form, through input from optical scanning, to the storage of documents in coded form, through input from word-processing. The problems raised by that shift in strategy had not been considered or resolved during the pilot project, which had been based solely on optical scanning. Nor had the pilot project included the development of indexing systems, which were required for a fully operational system. The objectives of the project had been expanded from reducing storage requirements to improving access to parliamentary documents for a variety of users both within and outside the Secretariat. Lastly, a fully operational system required telecommunications arrangements, which had not been needed during the pilot project.

18. With regard to the Chilean proposal, the Secretariat would consult permanent missions in New York and Geneva and report to the General Assembly on the equipment available to them.

19. Mr. BAZAN (Chile) said that he endorsed the statement made by the representative of the Department of Conference Services with regard to the consultations to be conducted by the Secretariat.

20. Mr. MORDACQ (France) asked whether the effect of the Chairman's suggestions would be that the General Assembly would authorize the Secretariat to commit extrabudgetary funds to the project and to redeploy other resources to section 29, while the question of the remaining resources would be referred to the Advisory Committee at its next session. If so, he would have no difficulty in accepting the Chairman's suggestions or the Chilean proposal.

21. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of France had correctly understood his suggestions.

22. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly should defer to the forty-sixth session consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the optical disc storage and retrieval system (A/C.5/45/58) and request the Secretariat to conduct consultations with permanent missions in order to determine the appropriateness of making the system compatible with those of the permanent missions and to report on that matter to the Assembly at the forty-sixth session.

23. It was so decided.

24. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would also take it that the Committee also decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Advisory Committee should be empowered to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for additional requirements necessary for 1991, on the understanding that the additional appropriations would have first call on the contingency fund at the forty-sixth session.

25. It was so decided.

26. Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (Cameroon), explaining his delegation's position on the decision just adopted, said that he hoped that there would be no further delays at the next session in the implementation of the project. The questions raised by the representative of France were very appropriate. In view of the scope of the project, Member States should have adequate and timely information, since the greater the delay, the greater the cost.

Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice (A/45/7/Add.10; A/C.5/45/44 and A/C.5/45/L.7)

27. Mr. MESLLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the report of the Advisory Committee (A/45/7/Add.10). Referring to the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/45/44), he said that the members of the International Court of Justice believed that grounds existed for structural changes in salaries. Their views, which were set out in paragraph 14 of the report, had been conveyed to the General Assembly.

(Mr. Mselle)

28. The Advisory Committee had carefully studied the Secretary-General's proposals set out in his report, and had decided that adoption of all the proposals might impinge on the sui generis nature of the salaries and allowances of members of the Court. Its reservations in that regard were set out in paragraph 12 of its own report (A/45/7/Add.10), in which it emphasized that the system of emoluments and conditions of service applicable to members of the Court should be simple and distinct from any other in the United Nations system. In keeping with that belief, the Advisory Committee had made a number of appropriate recommendations.

29. Turning to the draft resolution on the subject, submitted by the Chairman in document A/C.5/45/L.7, he noted the recommendation in section A that the annual salary of the members of the Court should be raised to \$145,000 from its current level of \$82,000, but pointed out that the new figure did not include any cost-of-living (COL) adjustment. As indicated in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report under the current system in January 1991 the total annual remuneration of judges would amount to \$107,000. The draft resolution also proposed the retention of the system of floor/ceiling measures introduced under General Assembly resolution 43/217, as indicated in paragraph 3. Since the COL adjustment system had been dispensed with, it was also decided to review emoluments and other conditions of service after three years, instead of every five years, as previously.

30. Section B of the resolution described the proposed pension scheme for members of the Court. In line with the Advisory Committee's recommendations, it had been decided that judges' pensions should no longer be expressed as a percentage of base salary but should be set at \$50,000 a year for judges elected to serve nine years, with an incremental system to a ceiling of \$75,000 per year.

31. Section C of the draft resolution stipulated the terms of reimbursement for education costs, including those incurred for disabled children.

32. The Advisory Committee hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

33. Mr. CLAVIJO (Colombia) said that it was in the interest of all Member States to increase respect for members of the Court by ensuring that they received appropriate remuneration. The right financial incentives must also be offered in order to attract individuals with the best possible qualifications, with experience and with probity, and in order to compensate them adequately for their relatively long periods of service and for the sacrifices which they had to make. The proposed salary increments met the criteria applied throughout the United Nations system in order to guarantee competitiveness of salaries. That administrative principle should not, however, be seen as the institutionalization of benefits for a small élite but, rather, as an effort to establish an equitable system of reward for services rendered to the Organization at the highest levels.

34. Colombia wished to stress the importance of the continuous renewal of officials in high-level positions, which must not be monopolized by certain

(Mr. Clavijo, Colombia)

individuals or countries. Subject to those comments, his delegation supported the draft resolution.

35. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands), supported by Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy), said that he endorsed most of the points raised by Colombia. Appropriate remuneration of members of the Court was conducive to professionalism.

36. Mr. OSELLA (Argentina) said that his delegation joined Colombia in agreeing with the Secretary-General that a structural change in the emoluments in question was justified. It also accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendations, particularly those set out in paragraphs 13 and 15 of document A/45/7/Add.10.

37. Mr. BENNETT (United States of America) said that there was little justification for the proposed increases in emoluments and lavish benefits accorded to members of the Court, in view of the limited services provided by the Court, which were not comparable with those performed by the United States Supreme Court. Furthermore, the arguments in justification of those emoluments put forward by the Court itself were a form of lobbying and should not have been included in document A/C.5/45/44. The conclusions set out in paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's report were therefore not warranted, and the proposed increments would only be conducive to the promotion of elitism. He hoped, moreover, that staff representatives would take note that the United States did not limit its concerns on the issue of productivity to the Department of Conference Services. In order to give the proposals due consideration, he would appreciate further details from the Secretariat on the Court's work-load.

38. With reference to the historical argument adduced in paragraph 15 of the Secretary-General's report, his delegation believed that references to the League of Nations were both irrelevant and surprising. In addition, the United States had technical doubts about the demands for an increase in pay and benefits and wondered whether the proposed salary level took into account the cost of domestic service at The Hague, noting that such costs were factored into the pay-rates of senior United Nations officials.

39. He noted that members of the Court and their close relatives were still entitled to first-class air travel, despite the elimination of that privilege for most United Nations officials. The United States therefore proposed amending draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.7 by means of the addition of a fourth operative paragraph at the end of section C which would read: "Decides that the air-travel standard of members of the Court and their close relatives shall be limited to the class immediately below first class". In addition, he noted that article 16 of the Court's Statute prohibited members of the Court from engaging in any other occupation of a professional nature. He recommended, therefore, that the Court should take appropriate steps to prevent such activities, and that the members of the Court should report on any outside income from teaching or publishing.

40. Subject to the inclusion of the proposed additional paragraph and with the reservations he had expressed, the United States was prepared, with great reluctance, to accept the draft proposal.

41. Mr. LAOUARI (Algeria) said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations represented a reasonable balance between the Secretary-General's proposals and the need to strengthen the Court's effectiveness. His delegation therefore supported draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.7.
42. Mr. ADEYEMI (Nigeria) said that his delegation concurred with the recommendations in paragraphs 13 and 15 of the Advisory Committee's report.
43. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), responding to the request for clarification from the United States, said that there were eight cases currently before the Court. Previously, the Court had heard three cases per year over a period of six years. Its work-load was therefore significantly heavier.
44. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that his delegation was puzzled by the reservations expressed by the representative of the United States. Japan endorsed the Advisory Committee's view that the conditions of service of members of the Court should be based on recognition that their service was *sui generis*. If criteria for higher emoluments were required, however, they should be derived not from the conditions of service of international civil servants but from those of senior national and international judicial officials. The Secretary-General's report furnished ample evidence of the need to raise the emoluments of the members of the Court to an adequate level. He appealed, therefore, to the United States to reconsider its opinion and to support the adoption of the draft resolution without amendment.
45. Mr. BENNETT (United States) said that, while his delegation still maintained that the proposed emoluments represented an exorbitant use of United Nations funds, it was prepared, for the sake of reaching a consensus, to withdraw its proposal for the time being.
46. Draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.7 was adopted without a vote.
47. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom), explaining his delegation's position on the draft resolution just adopted, said that, although the United Kingdom welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, it did have some concerns about procedure, since the resolution had been circulated at a late stage. The fact that his delegation was not invoking the relevant rule of the rules of procedure should not be taken as a precedent.
48. The question of terms and conditions for senior personalities serving the United Nations was one most appropriately dealt with, as a matter of general principle, on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations. His delegation had in the past voiced concerns about the work-load of the Court's support staff. In that connection, at the current stage he simply wished to comment that the work-load might be greater if all Member States accepted the Court's compulsory jurisdiction.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.44 concerning agenda item 108 (A/C.5/45/64)

Implementation of the Global Programme of Action on drug abuse control (A/45/7/Add.11; A/C.5/45/27)

49. Mr. MSELLE (Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action on international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (A/45/7/Add.11), referred delegations to General Assembly resolution S-17/2, which contained the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action. On the basis of the Global Programme of Action, the Secretary-General had prepared the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, which had been considered by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (E/1990/39 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1). In addition, there was the report of the Secretary-General on the enhancement of the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control, in document A/45/652 and Add.1. The annex to document A/45/652/Add.1 contained the report of the Group of Experts to advise and assist the Secretary-General on the enhancement of the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control. The relevant documents had been considered by the Third Committee, which had subsequently adopted draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.44. Besides the Secretary-General's statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (A/C.5/45/64), there were the Secretary-General's proposals for implementing the Global Programme of Action (A/C.5/45/27).

50. The Advisory Committee had submitted its recommendations in document A/45/7/Add.11. Part I of the Advisory Committee's report dealt with the Secretary-General's recommendations relating to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. The Secretary-General was requesting the establishment of a total of 20 posts, at an estimated cost of \$911,900 under section 20 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. The Advisory Committee had endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme would have a total of 151 posts, 71 of which would be financed from the regular budget and 80 from extrabudgetary resources.

51. Part II of the Advisory Committee's report dealt with the Secretary-General's proposals on the question of restructuring the Vienna units. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme would be established in Vienna, and the Secretary-General indicated that the Programme should be headed by an official at the level of Assistant Secretary-General. However, under paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.44 the General Assembly would invite the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps in order to appoint a senior official at the level of Under-Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee had considered the matter at length and submitted its views in paragraph 10 of its report. In that paragraph, it stated that establishment of posts and the determination of their levels was within the mandate of the Fifth Committee. Since the Third Committee had

(Mr. Maella)

pronounced on the level of the official to head the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the Advisory Committee was unable to pronounce on the level of the post in question. However, in view of General Assembly resolution 41/213, it believed that implementation of the Third Committee's request would require that the appointment of such a senior official should be accommodated within the existing number of posts at that level. That being the case, there would be no need to appropriate an additional amount of \$83,900 under section 20 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. That was the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

52. In paragraphs 12 and 13 of its report, the Advisory Committee drew attention to its intention to review the budget of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. It would take into account developments that took place after the adoption by the General Assembly of the recommendation to establish a unified structure in Vienna, entitled the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

53. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should defer further consideration of the matter before it to a later meeting.

Standards of accommodation for air travel (continued) (A/C.5/45/28)

54. The CHAIRMAN said that a telex sent to the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna had been brought to his attention. The telex read:

"The following passage from the United States delegate's statement reported on page 6 of press release GA/AB/2698 of 12 December on the Fifth Committee has been brought to my attention.

'The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna had flown by Concorde at an additional cost of \$2,278, a sum that was large enough to pay for scores of meals at any refugee camp anywhere in the world. He trusted that the trip, and the exception to the rule, was justified by a matter of great importance.'

"I would like it to be immediately clarified that I have never, on any occasion, flown on Concorde at United Nations expense.

"There was an occasion in November 1989 when a complicated sequence of events requiring me to be in a very short space of time in Congo, Brazzaville, for the Global Commission on AIDS, of which I am the only United Nations member, Malta to chair the Board of the affiliated Institute on Aging, New York for the Third Committee drugs debate (of which the dates had been changed) and Washington, at the Secretary-General's request, to make the final banquet address at the National Conference on the United States and the United Nations: 'Forging a New Relationship'.

(The Chairman)

"There was no way in which I could fulfil all these commitments without flying Concorde, and a possible waiver was the subject of telexes between Headquarters and Vienna.

"In the event, however, I avoided that necessity by cancelling the Congo mission and curtailing that to Malta. I did this deliberately in order to avoid the cost to the Organisation of taking the Concorde. It is therefore very unfortunate that the report on standards of travel (which has not reached me in Vienna) should apparently contain this erroneous information and lead to such damaging statements in the Fifth Committee.

"I should be grateful if a statement rectifying this error could be made and given equal publicity to that of the United States delegate."

55. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that annex II to the report of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel (A/C.5/45/28) did in fact indicate, in section A and in the corresponding footnote, that the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna had travelled by Concorde. He wanted to make it clear to the Committee that the United States delegation had not been wrong in making the statement in question at the Committee's 44th meeting. If there was an error in the Secretary-General's report, it was the Secretariat's fault, not the United States delegation's fault.

56. The CHAIRMAN said that he did not think that on that point there was any disagreement between the United States delegation and the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

57. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that it was important to set the record straight, because Member States worked on the basis of the documents submitted to them. He requested the Secretariat to look into the matter.

58. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that he supported the statement just made by the representative of Ghana. Obviously, if the information in question had not been provided in a General Assembly document, the United States delegation would not have made the statement in question.

59. Mr. BAZAN (Chile) said that he supported the statements just made by the representatives of the United States and Ghana concerning the information provided in Secretariat documents.

60. The CHAIRMAN said that he would request the Secretariat to issue an appropriate corrigendum to document A/C.5/45/28.

61. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft decision on standards of accommodation for air travel proposed by the representative of India, which was now available to delegations in an informal paper.

62. Mr. Y. K. GUPTA (India) said that the outcome of the consultations that he had held with a number of delegations was reflected in the draft decision, which read:

/...

(Mr. Y. K. Gupta, India)

"Standards of accommodation for air travel

"The General Assembly,

Reiterates its resolution 41/213 and 42/214;

1. Requests the Secretary-General to review the existing arrangements in regard to payment of subsistence allowance and standard of air travel by representatives of Member States in their official capacity to attend meetings of various intergovernmental bodies and on other United Nations official work and to submit concrete proposals to the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with a view to ensuring consistency of travel arrangements within the United Nations;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to examine how the discounts and other incentives offered by various airlines could be utilized by the United Nations to provide upgraded travel arrangements by representatives of Member States, experts attending meetings of subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat staff without incurring any additional expenditure and to include his recommendations in this regard in the report requested in paragraph 1;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General in the interim to exercise his discretion in respect of business class travel on United Nations official work in cases where this would be justified by high status of the traveller in light of the views expressed by Member States at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

4. Decides to review at its forty-sixth session the arrangements regarding the payment of subsistence allowance and accommodation for air travel on the basis of the above report."

The understanding attached to the draft decision read:

"Under paragraph 3 of the above decision, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to provide business class tickets to permanent representatives of Member States accredited to the United Nations whenever they are invited to travel on official United Nations work."

63. Mr. BAZAN (Chile) said that reports on standards of accommodation for air travel should provide more detailed information. He therefore wished to suggest that a paragraph along the following lines should be inserted into the draft decision under consideration: "requests the Secretary-General to include in his next report detailed information on exceptions for first-class travel made for eminent persons". He was referring to details on the meetings that eminent persons had attended, since such information was not provided in annex III of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/45/28).

64. The CHAIRMAN suggested that Chile's proposal might be reworded so that it read: "requests the Secretary-General to include in his next report information on the meetings attended by eminent persons for whom exceptions for first-class travel have been made".

65. Mr. BAZAN (Chile) said that wording just suggested by the Chairman was acceptable to this delegation.

66. Mr. KALBITZER (Germany) said that he had certain reservations about paragraph 3 of the draft decision and the understanding attached to the draft decision.

67. Mr. Y. K. GUPTA (India) said that the question was whether, if members of subsidiary bodies and Secretariat officials travelled in business class when they were travelling on official business, such facilities should be denied to the permanent representatives of Member States.

68. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that although his delegation had serious concerns about travel costs it would support the Indian delegation's proposed text for the draft decision, on the understanding that the Permanent Representative of the United States would be accorded the same treatment as other permanent representatives.

69. Mr. HAXTHAUSEN (Denmark) said that he supported the German position on the matter. He asked the representative of India whether, in paragraph 2 of the draft decision, the words "upgraded travel arrangements" referred to an upgrade from business class to first-class travel.

70. Mr. Y. K. GUPTA (India) said that the phrase "upgraded travel arrangements" referred to an upgrade from any class to any other class at no additional cost to the Organisation. The purpose of paragraph 2 was to request the Secretary-General to examine the possibilities regarding standards of accommodation for air travel, and to allow him some latitude in that area in order to take advantage of incentives offered by airlines.

71. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that he supported the draft decision before the Committee, which dealt with an issue of great concern. The text reflected the agreement which had been reached in discussions on the same issue the previous year. He proposed that in paragraph 3 the phrase "exercise his discretion" should be amended to read "continue to exercise his discretion" and that the phrase "in cases where this would be justified by high status" should be replaced by the words "taking into account the status".

72. Mr. Y. K. GUPTA (India) said that the amendments proposed by the representative of Ghana were acceptable to his delegation.

73. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Poland) said that he supported the amendments to paragraph 3 of the draft decision proposed by the representative of Ghana, since the reference to "high status" was vague and could cause difficulties.

74. Mr. HAXTHAUSEN (Denmark) proposed that in paragraph 2 of the draft decision the portion of the paragraph from the phrase "upgraded travel arrangements" to the end of the sentence should be amended to read simply "savings or benefits for the Organisation".

75. Mr. Y. K. GUPTA (India) suggested that the phrase proposed by the representative of Denmark should be treated as an addition, so that the relevant part of the sentence would read "to provide savings or benefits for the Organisation and upgraded travel arrangements".

76. Mr. HAXTHAUSEN (Denmark) said that, in a spirit of compromise, his delegation would accept India's proposal.

77. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel (A/C.5/45/28).

78. It was so decided.

79. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would also take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decision proposed by India, as amended by the representatives of Denmark and Ghana, with the paragraph proposed by Chile, as reworded by himself, added as paragraph 5.

80. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 124: PATTERN OF CONFERENCES (continued) (A/C.5/45/L.8)

81. Mr. NASSER (Egypt), Rapporteur, introducing draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.8, briefly outlined the provisions of section A (Report of the Committee on Conferences) and section B (Control and limitation of documentation). He recommended that the Committee should adopt the draft by consensus.

82. Draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.8 was adopted without objection.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.