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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 40th 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 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 134: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (A/45/493 and Add.1, A/45/502, A/45/582 and A/45/801)

1. **Mr. MSELLE** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the Advisory Committee's report contained in document A/45/801, which covered a number of reports of the Secretary-General on peace-keeping operations.

2. In paragraphs 2 through 9, in which the Secretary-General's report on the review of the rates of reimbursement to the Governments of troop-contributing States (A/45/582) was discussed, the Advisory Committee questioned the methodology used by the Secretary-General and his decision not to recommend a change in the current rates of reimbursement. In view of the inflation that had occurred world wide since the rates had been established in 1980, it thought that some relief was necessary. If the General Assembly agreed with that conclusion, the Advisory Committee would recommend an increase of 4 per cent.

3. Paragraphs 10 through 19 dealt with the Secretary-General's report on the support account for peace-keeping operations (A/45/493). When the subject of the support account had first been raised the year before, the Advisory Committee had given its provisional approval, pending submission by the Secretary-General of detailed information on the operation of the account and its legislative control and supervision. The account would be funded by including in estimates for peace-keeping operations the equivalent of 8.5 per cent of the salaries, common staff costs and travel expenses of the "civilian establishment". The Advisory Committee's understanding of that term was stated in paragraph 14 of its report. He drew particular attention to paragraphs 14 through 16, which contained observations and recommendations that the Secretariat should consider carefully. Specifically, the Advisory Committee had some reservations regarding the methodology for determining the level of the account, its administration and management and its legislative control and supervision. It also intended to review the status of the support account more frequently than was envisaged in the report of the Secretary-General, and it wished to warn the Secretariat that the account should not be regarded as another reserve for funding new posts that were marginal to the support of peace-keeping operations.

4. Paragraphs 19 through 30 covered the Secretary-General's report on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items for United Nations peace-keeping activities (A/45/493/Add.1). For the time being, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should begin establishing the reserve stock using equipment left over from the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), supplemented, whenever practicable, from other sources. It also asked the Secretary-General to determine the extent to which some of the reserve stock requirements could be met through voluntary contributions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/49, and it requested the

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Secretary-General to report to it at its spring session in 1991 on the status of voluntary contributions.

5. With respect to paragraphs 31 through 35, which dealt with the report of the Secretary-General on the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations (A/45/502), the Advisory Committee agreed in principle with the Secretary-General's proposals subject to its observations and recommendations in paragraph 35.

6. Mr. O'BRIEN (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of Australia and Canada, said that, because of the growing importance of peace-keeping activities for the Organization, the Fifth Committee needed to be especially diligent in its examination of the agenda item under consideration. As a result of their considerable experience in United Nations peace-keeping operations, the three delegations were in a position to identify certain administrative and management factors that contributed to the success of such operations. The essential elements for the establishment of an operation were, inter alia, adequate preliminary financing, ready access to equipment and materials, a comprehensive, clear plan of action agreed upon by all relevant parties, agreed start-up dates allowing for adequate planning, pre-agreed status-of-forces agreements and effective co-ordination between the policy and operations divisions of the Secretariat. For the operative stage, essential elements included reliable funding, prompt and reasonable reimbursements to troop-contributing countries, effective co-ordination within the various Secretariat units involved in preparing and managing peace-keeping, clear in-theatre, command structures effective use of military and civilian personnel, adequate training of all personnel, use of mandate periods (and, where possible, target termination dates) and an ongoing process of evaluation.

7. The report on the use of civilian personnel (A/45/502) contained some helpful suggestions. However, the three delegations could not advocate the wider use of civilians in certain operational and administrative areas at the expense of military personnel. Core military involvement was advisable for financial and security reasons and made it possible to respond speedily to urgent situations. Moreover, military personnel who had served in previous successful operations had valuable experience to offer.

8. The three delegations had endorsed the proposal made by the Secretary-General in 1989 that interested Member States should submit detailed inventories of civilian resources which could be made available for future operations. Now that such a helpful analysis of the functions that civilians might perform was available, it would perhaps be appropriate to carry out a more formal survey, along the lines of the questionnaire on military personnel, and to present the responses to the survey together with the earlier findings in a single document.

9. The Secretary-General's report on requirements for United Nations peace-keeping operations (A/45/217), with its emphasis on military resources, provided a useful starting-point for compiling a check-list of all the personnel, material and technical resources required in mounting an operation. That

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information should be combined with the data on civilian resources and the inventory of reserve stock to provide a comprehensive data base of peace-keeping requirements.

10. The three delegations had long emphasized increased Secretariat co-ordination as a key to mounting and maintaining efficient peace-keeping operations. In that regard, they welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of a support account for peace-keeping operations to replace ad hoc arrangements for temporary assistance through overload posts. Setting up a support account would strengthen the Secretariat's capacity to respond in the pre-implementation phase of operations and would provide needed flexibility in the use of resources. It should also result in posts being filled by experienced professionals. They believed that the level of funding proposed in the Secretary-General's report (A/45/493) was appropriate.

11. The chief problem faced in the start-up phase of an operation was that of adequate financial backing. In 1989 the Secretary-General had made three important proposals aimed at solving that problem: expansion of the Working Capital Fund, an increase in levels of commitment authority and the establishment of a reserve stock. Although the additional information on start-up problems requested of the Secretary-General in General Assembly resolution 44/192 had not been available during the preparation of his statement, the report of the Secretary-General on the financial emergency (A/C.5/45/17) showed that the Secretariat remained convinced of the need to increase the Working Capital Fund. However, if the expansion of that Fund proved too problematic, it would be necessary to take another look at alternatives such as the establishment of a special peace-keeping fund and large-scale increases in commitment authority. In that regard, the three delegations continued to support the proposed increases in the levels of commitment authority of the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General.

12. With respect to the report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a reserve stock of equipment and supply items for United Nations peace-keeping activities (A/45/493/Add.1), the three delegations supported in principle the idea of establishing a reserve stock and endorsed the suggestion that such materials should also be drawn upon by existing operations, thereby ensuring a regular turnover of stock and keeping materials reasonably up to date. They remained convinced, however, of the need for adequate inventories of equipment and were concerned about the accessibility of such stock, especially in the light of the proposal to store it at a number of separate locations.

13. The delegations were concerned at the scant attention paid to the issue of funding, which was, in their view, a major prerequisite for the success of a peace-keeping operation. The funding of peace-keeping operations was unquestionably erratic, inefficient and unreliable. In order to remedy that deplorable situation, all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full and on time, and, subject to that constraint, the Secretariat must reimburse troop contributors promptly. It was also necessary to continue to seek to increase the efficiency of peace-keeping management. The three delegations called for

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efforts to refine and standardize the forecasting of expenditures for new operations and reaffirmed their belief that, under Article 17 of the Charter, the cost of a peace-keeping operation should be shared by all Member States.

14. A second area of concern related to the management of peace-keeping operations. In line with their past advocacy of a review of the division of responsibilities in that area, the three delegations applauded the establishment of the Senior Planning and Monitoring Group in January 1990. It endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that, in addition to its primary responsibilities, the Group should keep under review the organizational structure within the Secretariat relating to peace-keeping operations and make recommendations as appropriate. It would be helpful for the Group to compile a brief report at the conclusion of its first year in operation, commenting specifically on how co-ordination might be further enhanced.

15. Lastly, he wished to stress the importance attached by the three delegations to the setting of realistic implementation dates (and, in many cases, termination dates) for peace-keeping operations, to providing assigned personnel with adequate training, and the conclusion of comprehensive status-of-forces agreements prior to the start of an operation. In that regard, they were pleased to note the Secretariat's progress in drafting a standard agreement, and they looked forward to receiving that document in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 122: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
(continued) (A/45/798)

16. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that parts II and III of the Advisory Committee's detailed report on administrative and budgetary co-ordination (A/45/798) covered the special subjects on which the Advisory Committee had exchanged views with the specialized agencies. One of those subjects, the question of future support-cost arrangements, would be the subject of reports to the General Assembly and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1991. Some of the other special subjects would form the basis of separate reports; brief observations on two of those subjects were included in parts IV and V.

17. In paragraphs 167 to 171, the Advisory Committee commented on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on budgeting in organizations of the United Nations system, a subject in which the Advisory Committee intended to continue its long-standing involvement. It wished to point out, however, that the pursuit of harmonization and standardization of budgetary practices should not be regarded as ends in themselves. As the Advisory Committee had noted in the past, it might not be possible, in view of the mandates and programme structures of the various organizations, and the specific requests of various legislative bodies in the United Nations system, to achieve complete harmonization and standardization of all the organizations' budgetary practices. Member States might bear that constraint in mind in the course of their discussions and decisions. Meanwhile, they might

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perhaps address their efforts to requesting organizations of the United Nations system to refine the presentation of their budgets, to simplify documents and to make them more transparent. As many members of the Fifth Committee were aware, it would be necessary, at some future date, to review the format and presentation of the United Nations regular budget: although postponed as a result of the changes arising from the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213, it was to be hoped that the Advisory Committee could address that issue in due course. The failure to achieve clarity, simplicity and transparency in documentation need not always be attributed to a lack of harmonization or standardization.

18. With regard to the issue of relationships between the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), the Advisory Committee intended to continue to follow the situation closely and to meet with all parties concerned.

19. Subsequent to the preparation of document A/45/798, the Advisory Committee had discussed ways and means of improving the future presentation of such reports to the General Assembly. Noting the considerable interest in the subject of administrative and budgetary co-ordination, it intended to make its reporting more responsive to the needs of the General Assembly in discharging its responsibilities under Article 17 of the Charter. In that connection, it was planning to replace the current format by one which would take into account the extensive information prepared by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) on the programmes and resources of different organizations. The Advisory Committee would strive to ensure the timely presentation of statistical information to the General Assembly and increase its efforts to report on issues of system-wide concern, including, inter alia, conference services, procurement and agency support costs. Such changes would, following consultation with ACC, be reflected in the Advisory Committee's next report on administrative and budgetary co-ordination.

The meeting was suspended at 11.20 a.m. and resumed at 11.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 17: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

20. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee of the basic rules governing elections, as contained in rule 92 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and paragraph 16 of General Assembly decision 34/401.

(d) CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE
(A/45/104; A/C.5/45/14)

21. The CHAIRMAN said that, in document A/C.5/45/14, the Secretary-General had submitted for confirmation by the General Assembly the reappointment of Mr. Guyot (France), Mr. Johnston (United States of America) and Mr. Matsukawa (Japan) as members of the Investments Committee for three-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1991. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to recommend confirmation of those appointments by acclamation.

22. It was so decided.

(e) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL
(A/45/105; A/C.5/45/39)

23. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the General Assembly was required to appoint two persons to fill vacancies that would arise in the membership of the Administrative Tribunal on 31 December 1990. The Secretary-General had indicated that Mr. de Posadas Montero (Uruguay) and Mr. Voicu (Romania) had been nominated by their respective Governments for appointment. Since the number of candidates corresponded to the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Committee wished to dispense with the secret ballot.

24. It was so decided.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend the appointment of those candidates for three-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

26. It was so decided.

(h) APPOINTMENT OF AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE (A/45/142; A/C.5/45/41)

27. The CHAIRMAN said that, as indicated in document A/45/142, Mr. Maus (Mexico) had resigned as an alternate member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee. The General Assembly would therefore be required to appoint a replacement to serve for the unexpired portion of his term of office, until 31 December 1991. In document A/C.5/45/41, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that the Government of Mexico had nominated Mr. Duhalt to fill the unexpired portion of the term of office of Mr. Maus. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Fifth Committee wished to recommend by acclamation the appointment of Mr. Duhalt to membership of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee for a one-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

28. It was so decided.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

29. The CHAIRMAN said that the General Assembly was required to appoint five persons to fill vacancies which would arise in the membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with the expiry of the terms of office of five of its members on 31 December 1990. He thanked members of the Committee for their efforts to expedite the appointments through informal consultations, despite the absence of the required documentation.

30. Mr. RUEDAS (Spain), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, said that the Group had endorsed the candidacies of Mr. Fox (United States of America) and Mr. Kinchen (United Kingdom) for appointment as members of the Advisory Committee.

31. Mr. KOULYK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, said that the Group had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Bidny (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee.

32. Ms. MONTAÑO (Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, said that the Group had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Fontaine Ortiz (Cuba) for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee.

33. Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Group had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Ladjouzi (Algeria) for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee.

34. The CHAIRMAN said that the Group of Asian States had, in the course of informal consultations, indicated that it had no objection to the current procedure for appointment of members of the Advisory Committee. The representatives of the other regional groups had indicated that Mr. Bidny (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. Fontaine Ortiz (Cuba), Mr. Fox (United States of America), Mr. Kinchen (United Kingdom) and Mr. Ladjouzi (Algeria) had been nominated for appointment to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Since the number of candidates corresponded to the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Committee wished to dispense with a secret ballot.

35. It was so decided.

36. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend the appointment of those candidates for three-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

37. It was so decided.

38. Mr. INOMATA (Japan), said that while he applauded the Chairman's efficiency in securing a decision on appointments to the Advisory Committee, the proper procedure should be followed in the future, including the provision of full documentation by the Secretariat. That requirement applied, in particular, to the appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions.

39. Mr. LOPEZ (Venezuela) suggested, in view of the proposal by his delegation that the geographical composition of the Committee on Contributions should be modified with effect from 1 January 1991, that the appointment of members of that Committee be postponed until the Fifth Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 125.

40. The CHAIRMAN said that the Fifth Committee would not be in a position to act on such a modification, even if adopted, until the next session of the General Assembly. He would nevertheless bear in mind the concern expressed by the representative of Venezuela.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.