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at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 41st 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 10.20 a.m.

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

1. Mr. TRAXLER (Italy), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the Twelve, which had consistently supported the role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter, considered the new-found unity of purpose among members of the Security Council particularly encouraging. The prospect of new peace-keeping operations fully justified the Fifth Committee's continued interest in the adequacy of existing administrative and budgetary arrangements and the possibilities for improving them. In that context, it should be recalled, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 44/192 A, that each peace-keeping operation had special characteristics, which thus called for flexibility in addressing the administrative requirements of each operation.

2. Apart from providing political support, the Twelve were liable for some 30 per cent of the total costs of United Nations peace-keeping operations. Since those costs had risen substantially over the past two years, it was all the more essential that budget estimates should command the confidence of Member States. While it was gratifying to note the progress already made in ensuring transparency of information, further efforts were clearly required to prevent appropriations from significantly exceeding requirements. In that connection, it was regrettable that the failure of some Member States to pay their assessed contributions for peace-keeping promptly and in full should have obliged troop contributors to bear a substantial proportion of the related costs and to face unacceptable delays in full payment of the standard rates of reimbursement. The Twelve firmly believed that peace-keeping costs should, whether included in the regular budget or financed through special accounts, be regarded as mandatory expenses - unless decided otherwise by the Security Council - to be borne by all Members of the Organization. With respect to the apportionment of the costs of peace-keeping operations, they wished to recall the action taken, at the request of Spain, by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session and reiterated their view that classification in groups "b", "c" or "d" should not be considered definitive but instead depend on long-term trends in the development of individual States' capacity to pay.

3. With regard to the review of the rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing States, the Twelve, while appreciating the need for confidentiality, urged all such States to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General. Some consideration should now be given to an increase in the rates of reimbursement. The Twelve welcomed the increase in the number of Member States contributing personnel and hoped that trend would continue, taking account of the requirements of each mission, the views of the parties directly involved and the interest expressed by all Members of the Organization.

(Mr. Traxler, Italy)

4. The proposals for a support account and a reserve stock of equipment were clearly designed to help the Organisation to respond flexibly, effectively and promptly when the need arose for a new peace-keeping operation. The Twelve wished to consider further the specific arrangements proposed in the light of the pertinent reports of the Secretary-General, the comments of the Advisory Committee and the additional information provided to the Fifth Committee.

5. The utmost clarity was required in connection with the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations. The Advisory Committee itself appeared to have had difficulty in fully understanding paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report (A/45/502). The procedure suggested for the employment of such personnel, as indicated in paragraph 14 of the same report, seemed reasonable. However, the Twelve agreed with the Advisory Committee that such arrangements should be kept under review, taking into account the various operational requirements.

6. Clearly, the financial implications of peace-keeping operations must be subject to the strictest possible limits. It should be recalled, however, that peace had its price and that the costs were infinitely lower than those of war.

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

(b) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS (A/45/102;
A/C.5/45/37)

7. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee of rules 158 and 159 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly. The General Assembly was required to appoint six persons to fill vacancies which would arise in the membership of the Committee on Contributions with the expiry of the terms of office of six of its members on 31 December 1990. In document A/C.5/45/37, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that seven persons had been nominated by their respective Governments for appointment or reappointment. The number of candidates from the Group of Asian States, the Group of Eastern European States, and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States corresponded to the number of vacancies for those Groups. If he heard no objection, therefore, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend by acclamation the appointment of Mr. Ali (Pakistan), Mr. Chulkov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. Duhalt (Mexico), Mr. Wang Liansheng (China) to membership of the Committee on Contributions for three-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

8. It was so decided.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, as there were three candidates for the two vacancies for the Group of Western European and Other States, the Committee would hold a secret ballot. He reminded members of the Committee of rule 94 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

10. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Wu Gang (China), Mr. Tisler (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. Clavijo (Colombia) acted as tellers.

11. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.05 a.m. and resumed at 11.45 a.m.

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	146
<u>Invalid ballots:</u>	4
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	142
<u>Abstentions:</u>	0
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	142
<u>Required majority:</u>	72
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Mr. Amneus	98
Mr. Sessi	88
Mr. Zoel	85

12. Mr. Amneus (Sweden) and Mr. Sessi (Italy) having obtained the required majority, the Committee recommended their appointment as members of the Committee on Contributions for three-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

(c) APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS (A/45/103; A/C.5/45/38)

13. Mr. AL-SUWAIDI (United Arab Emirates), speaking as Chairman of the Group of Asian States, said that Jordan had decided to withdraw its candidate in favour of the candidate of Ghana.

14. Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda), speaking as Chairman of the Group of African States, expressed appreciation to the Group of Asian States for showing understanding and attempting to facilitate the election of the Ghanaian candidate by acclamation.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that the General Assembly was required to appoint the Auditor-General, or officer holding the equivalent title, of a Member State to a position on the Board of Auditors which would fall vacant on 1 July 1991, since the term of office of the Auditor-General of Ghana would expire on 30 June 1991. Since the Government of Jordan had withdrawn the candidacy of the President of the Government Audit Office for Jordan and there was only one candidate for the vacancy, he would take it that the Committee wished to dispense with the secret ballot.

16. It was so decided.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend by acclamation the reappointment of the Auditor-General of Ghana to the Board of Auditors for a term of office beginning on 1 July 1991 and ending on 30 June 1994.

18. It was so decided.

(f) INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (A/45/106 and Add.1, A/C.5/45/40)

(i) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

(ii) DESIGNATION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

19. The CHAIRMAN said that it was necessary for the General Assembly to appoint five persons to fill vacancies in the membership of the International Civil Service Commission which would arise on 31 December 1990. The General Assembly must also designate a chairman and Vice-Chairman from among the members of the Commission (A/45/106, para. 6). In addition, one person must be appointed to fill the unexpired portion of the term of office of Mr. Terekhov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), whose resignation was reported in document A/45/106/Add.1. The number of candidates for the Group of Eastern European States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and Other States corresponded to the number of vacancies for those groups. If he heard no objection, therefore, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend by acclamation the appointment of Mr. Pirson (Belgium) and Mr. Riha (Czechoslovakia) as members and Mr. Vegega (Argentina) as member and Vice-Chairman for four-year terms of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

20. It was so decided.

21. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had recommended Mr. Dryukov for appointment to serve the unexpired portion of the term of office of Mr. Terekhov. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend by acclamation the appointment of Mr. Dryukov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) for a two-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

22. It was so decided.

23. The CHAIRMAN said that two vacancies needed to be filled by the Group of African States. On the basis of consultations, the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, suggested that the Fifth Committee should recommend the appointment of Mr. Richard M. Akwei (Ghana), Mr. Mohsen Belhaj Amor (Tunisia) and Mrs. Turkia Daddah (Mauritania). As there were three candidates for the two vacancies for the Group of African States, the Committee would hold a secret ballot.

24. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Wu Gang (China), Mr. Clavijo (Colombia), Mr. Tisler (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. Karkutly (Saudi Arabia) acted as tellers.

25. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	153
<u>Invalid ballots:</u>	1
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	152
<u>Abstentions:</u>	0
<u>Number of members voting:</u>	152
<u>Required majority:</u>	77
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Mr. Akwei	93
Mr. Amor	97
Mrs. Daddah	98

26. Mr. Amor (Tunisia) having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend his appointment as member and Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

27. Mrs. Daddah (Mauritania) having obtained the required majority, the Committee decided to recommend her appointment as member of the International Civil Service Commission for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1991.

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

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions of the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions of 1990 (A/45/7/Add.8; A/C.5/45/31)

28. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee was recommending an estimate of additional requirements in 1990-1991, totalling \$451,000, attributable to three resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during 1990, on the understanding that such additional appropriations as might be requested by the Secretary-General would be dealt with in the context of the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its current session. With regard to Council resolution 1990/72 concerning the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, it recommended, as an interim measure, that a subvention in the amount of \$392,200 should be made under section 13 of the regular budget for the biennium 1990-1991. It also recommended that the General Assembly should request the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to urge the Administrator to implement fully Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/72 and that the Secretary-General should be requested to report to

(Mr. Mselle)

the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of its request to the Governing Council of UNDP.

29. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee was adopted without objection.

30. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Fifth Committee should take note of the reports of the Secretary-General contained in documents A/C.5/45/4, A/C.5/45/30, A/C.5/45/32, A/C.5/45/62 and A/C.5/45/63 and the report of the Advisory Committee contained in document A/45/7/Add.6. He further proposed that the Committee should endorse the recommendations of ACABQ, contained in paragraphs 25, 27 and 28 of document A/45/7/Add.6.

31. The proposal was adopted.

32. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that the revised estimates relating to resolutions of the Economic and Social Council in 1990 included funding for a number of programmes which his delegation did not support. The activities described in Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/11 on the situation of Palestinian women would not advance the cause of peace in the Middle East. Similar programmes undertaken in recent years had amounted to no more than political diatribe representing the biased views of the United Nations on the question of Palestine. It was doubtful that the programme would genuinely help to improve the conditions under which Palestinian women lived. The fact that his delegation had not called for a separate vote did not imply that it supported the programme.

33. Referring to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/71 on activities of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, he expressed doubt that the Centre would issue unbiased reports, in the light of its past performance, and hope that it would engage in fresh thinking. Its requests for funding seemed excessive in view of the substantial amounts budgeted for consultants and ad hoc experts under section 9. Perhaps such requests were related to the Centre's limited capabilities.

34. In conclusion, his delegation had reservations concerning the proposal to include in the regular budget resources for the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning. His delegation noted that the Institute's financial crisis was the result of shortfalls in contributions by both Member States and its chief source of funding UNDP (A/C.5/45/31, para. 24). Financing the Institute's activities from the regular budget was not in the long-term interest of the United Nations, which had its own financial difficulties, especially when the beneficiaries of the Institute's activities did not seem to attach great importance to them.

35. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) supported the statement by the representative of the United States of America and welcomed the recommendations of ACABQ on the matters under consideration.

36. Mr. MONTHÉ (Cameroon) endorsed the comments made by the Advisory Committee in its report (A/45/7/Add.8, para. 9) concerning the need for the Secretariat to provide indications of alternatives in the event that additional expenditures proposed exceeded resources available within the contingency fund.

Comprehensive review of the after-service health insurance programme (A/45/7/Add.9; A/C.5/45/33)

37. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) recommended that the Fifth Committee take note of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee (A/C.5/45/33 and A/45/7/Add.9).

38. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee was adopted without objection.

39. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that the after-service health insurance programme of the United Nations did not take into account the interests of Member States forced to pay ever-increasing health care premiums. At the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, his delegation had pointed out the sevenfold increase that had occurred in the after-service health insurance programme over the past decade. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, participation in the programme was expected to increase rapidly in the early 1990s. The current subsidy of \$14 million was larger than the allocations to 12 other programmes in the Organization's regular budget. The cost of the programme was expected to exceed the combined budgets of the United Nations environment and drug programmes, and ultimately, of the human rights programme as well.

40. The report of the Secretary-General represented only a first step in rethinking the policy of subsidizing after-service health insurance from the regular budget. His delegation fully agreed that extrabudgetary programmes should bear the costs too and regretted that the Secretary-General had not proposed a scheme for apportioning a greater share of those costs in 1991. While the cost of the integrated management information systems (IMIS) Project was surprising, it could rapidly prove to be a worthwhile investment if it accurately apportioned costs. The Secretary-General's report did not clarify whether the regular budget also subsidized health insurance for retired staff members of extrabudgetary programmes such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNDP.

41. Recognizing that health care costs had increased significantly, his delegation believed none the less that the cost of the United Nations programme had skyrocketed mainly because it was among the best available to any group of employees, public or private. The quality of health care coverage in the comparator civil service or even the private sector did not compare with the plans offered by the United Nations. Indeed, in the private sector, many employers had been forced to reduce health coverage or face bankruptcy, and senior citizens in the United States were paying higher premiums for reduced coverage as a result of the national budget deficit.

42. Rather than limiting coverage to the most expensive plans, the United Nations should offer a wide selection of health care plans to staff members and retirees

(Mr. Michalski, United States)

burdened by the rising cost of health care premiums. The United States Government, for example, offered some 20 plans with a view to accommodating the needs of its staff and their ability to contribute to their medical coverage. His delegation urged that the United Nations should do likewise - a proposal which had been rejected in 1983. While accepting the proposals contained in document A/C.5/45/33, his delegation believed that a comprehensive review of health care plans should offer greater choice and take into account the burdens currently imposed on Member States.

Review of the functioning and administrative support of the departments having mandates related to global social development issues and proposals for the strengthening of the United Nations Office at Vienna

Conference services at Vienna

Division of Administrative and Common Services, Vienna (A/45/7/Add.6; A/C.5/45/4, A/C.5/45/30, A/C.5/45/32, A/C.5/45/62 and A/C.5/45/63)

43. Mr. BAZAN (Chile) expressed support for the criteria advocated by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) for the establishment of common services (A/39/520). Referring to paragraph 15 of the report of the Secretary-General on conference services at Vienna (A/C.5/45/30), he said that savings would not be as significant if all the specialized agencies were not part of the integrated process. Commenting on the Advisory Committee's views concerning IAEA, he said that his delegation could not support the proposed unification if it entailed greater costs for any of the agencies concerned.

44. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that United Nations organizations and programmes did not exist to provide jobs for those on the United Nations payroll. His delegation hoped that differences of opinion on the structure of administrative services in Vienna would be resolved and specific recommendations would be made to the relevant governing bodies. Any new or revised arrangements should increase productivity and reduce costs. His delegation was convinced that rationalization would lead to better programme delivery at lower cost and that staff increases were not necessary.

45. Referring to paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report (A.45/7/Add.6), he said that the reluctance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to become part of a common conference service was puzzling. The IAEA position suggested that United Nations conference services were not cost-effective. If, indeed, IAEA was able to provide conference services more efficiently, its system should be applied in the United Nations as well.

46. His delegation was pleased to note that the Secretary-General planned to take immediate action on the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning the apportionment of administrative costs between the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). His delegation was concerned that subsidies from the United Nations regular budget were being provided to UNIDO. It was particularly concerned in view of the fact that UNIDO had been

(Mr. Michalski, United States)

granted a substantial loan and had not honoured the agreed terms of repayment. The expected savings in the 1992-1993 programme budget should amply offset the additional expenditures required to create a new D-2 post. It was regrettable that a new post must be create for such negotiations, which suggested that existing staff were not up to the task.

47. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/45/4, he said that his delegation would have preferred the Secretary-General's proposals for the 1990-1991 budget on administrative support for global social development programmes. Any solutions contained in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 should be consistent with the staff reduction target set in General Assembly resolution 41/213. Additional staff which proved to be necessary must be provided through redeployment.

48. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) expressed support for the statement by the delegation of the United States. His delegation also supported budgetary transparency and the accurate allocation of costs incurred. Rigorous budgeting procedures were essential and optimal use must be made of resources. It was regrettable that proposals made at the previous session of the General Assembly, which did not include administrative support, had not been adopted.

49. Mr. ANDEMICAEL (International Atomic Energy Agency) said that the International Atomic Energy Agency was deeply concerned over the reports of the Secretary-General on conference services at Vienna (A/C.5/45/30) and the Division of Administrative and Common Services at Vienna (A/C.5/45/32). Although both of the reports dealt with matters of direct concern to IAEA, the Agency had not been given any opportunity to comment on them before they were submitted to ACABQ, a procedure which contravened the understanding between the United Nations, UNIDO and IAEA. It was important to reach mutually agreed solutions in respect of conference services at Vienna; the United Nations could not impose solutions on autonomous agencies.

50. The reference by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 3 of its report (A/45/7/Add.6) to consultations with IAEA was inaccurate, since only discussions and not formal consultations had been held. Further, the Agency had understood that the May 1990 meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee for Conference Services at Vienna had been solely for the purpose of reviewing existing arrangements and that it had not been requested to conduct a major study and recommend changes. With regard to the suggestion that the Agency might wish to integrate its conference services with those of the United Nations and UNIDO, the Committee would note the strong objections of IAEA to any such arrangement since it saw no advantage of economy or efficiency.

51. IAEA noted the Advisory Committee's comments in paragraph 9 of its report that the proposal to form a single unified service for the United Nations and UNIDO should not prejudice the establishment of a common service should all three parties reach agreement, but had serious reservations with regard to the suggestion, in paragraph 11 of the report, that the Secretary-General should submit a report on the matter to the Advisory Committee on behalf of the United Nations alone rather

(Mr. Andemicael, IAEA)

than seek to arrive at an agreed report to be approved by each organization in accordance with its constitutional requirements. The statement that the envisaged common service should be administered by the United Nations prejudged the outcome of consultations.

52. IAEA welcomed the proposal to review cost-sharing arrangements and the issue of compensation with regard to all common services at Vienna, and appreciated the Advisory Committee's comments, in paragraph 22 of its report, concerning supposed overcharging of the United Nations. In that connection the Agency regretted the reference in draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.5 to "excessive costs" charged to the United Nations Office at Vienna.

53. The problem of conference services and other common services should be addressed in a truly tripartite manner, with adequate time for in-depth consideration. The results should then be submitted to the respective governing bodies of the organizations concerned, in accordance with normal procedure.

54. Mr. AGAIANTS (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that the question of common services at Vienna should be approached through tripartite or, where necessary, bilateral consultations involving the parties concerned. The existing legal régime should be strictly adhered to. In the area of conference services, the ultimate goal of a common arrangement accommodating the needs of all organs of the United Nations system at Vienna should not be compromised by partial measures. Any restructuring should avoid additional costs. UNIDO expected the United Nations Secretariat to share with it the information which had prompted the reference to "excessive costs" in draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.5. The wording of paragraphs 11 and 12 of that draft resolution should be reviewed by the General Assembly. Finally, he requested the Committee, in the draft resolution to be formulated on the item before it, to take note of the position of UNIDO.

55. Mr. PATTERSON (Director and Chief Editor, Editorial and Official Records Division, Department of Conference Services) said that the Department welcomed the willingness of IAEA and UNIDO to co-operate in the study of common services at Vienna. The United Nations had always considered inter-agency co-operation to be of the utmost importance. In that connection, the Under-Secretary-General for Conference Services and Special Assignments had written to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna in February 1990 proposing the reconvening of the Advisory Committee for Conference Services in order to analyse requirements and consider the implications of establishing a unified service at Vienna. The Department of Conference Services had requested updated statistics to facilitate further consideration of the matter. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna had informed IAEA of the concern felt at United Nations Headquarters regarding the spiralling costs of conference-servicing activities at Vienna and also informed the Agency that it would be invited to participate in any discussion of the matter. The Department of Conference Services trusted that fruitful consultations on the question would continue in 1991.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.