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at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 32nd 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 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 119: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/45/3, 6, 16 (Part I) and Add.1 and 16 (Part II), 204, 218 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, 279 and 617; A/C.5/45/42 and CRP.1)

1. Mrs. SUVARNATEMEE (Thailand), referring to the major programme of the medium-term plan entitled "Regional co-operation for economic and social development", stressed the decisive role played by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in promoting an awareness of the realities of interdependence and the need for regional co-operation among nations of Asia and the Pacific. The Commission's new conference centre, which would be completed in 1991, should enable it to become an even more effective forum for regional co-operation.

2. At the forty-sixth session of ESCAP, the participants had unanimously agreed that, in the medium-term plan, priorities should be set by member States themselves. Of the 15 subprogrammes under programme 31 (Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific), the members of the Commission had agreed to give priority to the following subprogrammes: agricultural and rural development; environment; human resources development; industrial and technological development; international trade and development finance; population; social development; special programmes for the least developed and island developing countries; and transport and communications. While not exhaustive, that list included programmes which were of common concern to the entire region of Asia and the Pacific, where more than half of the world's population was concentrated and where the number of people living in conditions of absolute poverty was higher than anywhere else. However, the appropriation for ESCAP in the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 was only \$39 million, which was small in the light of the region's wide-ranging needs and well below the appropriations for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and even the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Without questioning the allocation of resources, her delegation wished to discuss that matter further with other delegations in the near future in order to see whether more could be done for ESCAP.

3. Ms. GOICOCHEA (Cuba), referring to major programme I (Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization) and, more specifically, to programme 1 (Good offices and peace-making, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information), said that, for the reasons set out in annex I of document A/C.5/45/42, her delegation could not accept the inclusion of the concept of "peace-making" in subprogramme 1.

4. With regard to subprogramme 3 (Research and the collection of information), it had been indicated that the legislative mandates for that subprogramme were Articles 98 and 99 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 41/70, 41/213 and 44/164. Her delegation requested the Secretariat to specify the connection between resolution 41/213 and subprogramme 3. Cuba could

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(Ms. Goicochea, Cuba)

not see why resolutions 41/70 and 44/164, which dealt, respectively, with massive flows of refugees, and human rights and mass exoduses, were mentioned in relation to that subprogramme. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 44/164, the General Assembly referred specifically to means for "preventing new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons". The resolutions in question therefore belonged in programmes which dealt specifically with refugees, and not in programme 1. Her delegation wished to know how the inclusion of those mandates under subprogramme 3 was justified.

5. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the Office for Research and the Collection of Information had been established as part of the reforms undertaken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213, which was why reference had been made to that resolution in connection with subprogramme 3.

6. With respect to the appropriateness of referring to the mandate relating to flows of refugees under subprogramme 3, he said that that point had been raised during discussions in the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC). If he was not mistaken, CPC had considered that that mandate should also be mentioned under programme 36, which dealt with refugees. He would provide details on that issue at a later time.

7. Ms. GOICOCHEA (Cuba), referring to programme 3 (Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services), said that in document A/45/6 (Prog. 3) consultations with non-governmental organizations were mentioned several times. She requested confirmation that the organizations referred to were non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

8. With regard to programme 4 (Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization), she believed that, in document A/45/6 (Prog. 4), in paragraph 4.2 (b), it would be better to retain the words "of all ... territories" in the first line, even though CPC had recommended the deletion of the word "all"; on the other hand, her delegation could accept the replacement of "dependent" by "non-self-governing". Paragraphs 4.8 and 4.11 made explicit reference to a specific number of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Her delegation believed that it would be preferable not to specify a number, and she wished to know what criteria the Special Committee on decolonization had used to define the programme.

9. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that, with regard to programme 3, the organizations referred to were non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; the observations of CPC on that subject were contained in paragraph 90 of its report (A/45/16 (Part I)). With respect to the remarks made by the representative of Cuba concerning programme 4, in paragraph 97 of its report CPC had recommended the deletion of the word "all". However, the final decision would be taken by the Fifth Committee.

(Mr. Baudot)

10. Finally, also with respect to programme 4, it was clear that, according to paragraph 97 of the CPC report, CPC had concluded that it was necessary to refer explicitly to the 18 Non-Self-Governing Territories. However, in that case, too, the Fifth Committee would take the final decision.

11. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that, as a member of CPC, his delegation felt bound by that Committee's recommendations and believed that the same should therefore hold true for other members of that body. As for the validity of legislative texts or mandates, rule 103.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning stipulated that references to mandates adopted more than five years earlier must be justified; furthermore, in dealing with controversial issues, the translation of legislative mandates into specific programmes should naturally be acceptable to Member States as a whole.

12. Ms. BERENGUER (Brazil), referring to subprogramme 1 (Good offices and peace-making) of programme 1, recalled that the representative of Venezuela had proposed that references to peace-making should be omitted until the concept had been more clearly defined and further details were available regarding the texts on which the definition was based. As the medium-term plan was acknowledged to be the principle policy directive of the United Nations, it was extremely important that all concepts in it should be clarified before the plan was adopted. The representative of the United Kingdom had spoken of the need to abide by the recommendations of CPC, but it should be recalled that the Economic and Social Council had endorsed the medium-term plan on the understanding that it would be considered further during the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. Accordingly, the Fifth Committee must carry out that task and take a final decision. With regard to programme 1, then, her delegation proposed that all references to peace-making should be deleted pending clarification of that concept. With regard to subprogramme 3, she wished to know the mandates for the activities called for in paragraphs 1.20 (a) to (e). Apart from General Assembly resolution 41/213, the only resolutions mentioned were General Assembly resolutions 41/70 and 44/164, which dealt specifically with refugees. References to those two texts should appear only in programmes 35 and 36, as the representative of Cuba had pointed out.

13. Ms. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) drew attention to the observations of CPC in paragraph 42 of its report and said that the late issuance of documentation pertaining to the programmes under review had prevented delegations from holding detailed consultations with their capitals. Furthermore, she recalled that the Economic and Social Council had decided, after difficult negotiations, to endorse the recommendations of CPC concerning the medium-term plan, on the understanding that the plan would be considered further by the General Assembly. As regulation 3.14 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning also stipulated that the General Assembly was empowered to accept, curtail, reformulate or reject each of the subprogrammes proposed in the plan, it was clear to her delegation that the Fifth Committee must undertake a substantive review of programmes, taking into consideration the decisions of CPC.

14. Mr. OSELLA (Argentina), referring to programme 1, recalled that, in addition to the proposal by the representative of Venezuela, there had also been a proposal by the representative of Morocco to change the programme title so as to make it more consistent with the relevant provisions of the Charter.

15. Mr. CONMY (Ireland) said that the concept of peace-making was easy for his delegation to understand. It meant actions taken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations by the Secretary-General or people working under his authority. A question of terminology should not obscure the significance of the issue. His delegation did not have a solution to propose, but it would not support a deletion of the disputed term from the title of programme 1.

16. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal) agreed with the representative of Ireland that the substance of the issue was more important than the language involved, to which too much time was being devoted. The definition of peace-making and good offices contained in document A/C.5/45/CRP.1 - i.e. the Secretary-General's activities to promote dialogue and facilitate the achievement of agreements and the defusing of tensions between parties to a dispute - was consistent with the Charter, and her delegation did not see how there could be any objection to it.

17. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) began by recalling, for purposes of information, the title which the representative of Morocco had suggested at an earlier meeting for programme 1: "Good offices, maintenance and restoration of international peace and security, and research and the collection of information", a title which clearly distinguished the three concepts. He also recalled that document A/C.5/45/CRP.1 contained the additional information requested of the Secretary-General by CPC regarding the concept of peace-making. Finally, he wished to inform the representative of Brazil that, in paragraph 312 of its report (A/45/16 (Part I)), CPC had indicated the resolutions that were to be included as mandates for programme 36.

18. Mr. ABRASZEWSKI (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination) pointed out that many of the issues raised by delegations had already been considered during both parts of the CPC session and that CPC had stated its position in its report. Replying to the representative of Brazil, he confirmed that the Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 1990/83, had endorsed the relevant conclusions and recommendations of CPC, on the understanding that further consideration of the proposed medium-term plan would be undertaken by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. At its resumed session, the Council had approved the recommendations and conclusions of CPC concerning programmes 35 and 41.

19. As the Council had decided to transmit to the General Assembly the report of CPC and ACC on the work of their joint meetings, the President of the Assembly would transmit that report to the Fifth Committee, which could consider it under the agenda item currently under consideration.

20. Mr. DUHALT (Mexico) said that the concept of peace-making was not very clear to his delegation, which did not quite understand what the mandate for peace-making was and what implications the activities referred to would have. It was not merely a question of terminology. It was therefore necessary to act with caution and to refrain from re-interpreting the Charter of the United Nations. He wished to know how the Chairman planned to proceed in order to resolve the issue.

21. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the representative of Cameroon, Mr. Tommo Monthe, should be invited to co-ordinate the consultations on the question with a view to arriving at a clear definition of the concept of peace-making. He hoped that all delegations would be willing to co-operate with Mr. Tommo Monthe.

22. Ms. GOICOCHEA (Cuba) said that as the importance of the question made it impossible to take hasty decisions, the proposed medium-term plan should be considered programme by programme. While some programmes did not raise any problems, others deserved thorough consideration. She supported the choice of Mr. Tommo Monthe to co-ordinate the informal consultations and requested the Chairman to advise the Committee as to how it should proceed in the immediate future.

23. The CHAIRMAN said that he had no doubt that the representative of Cameroon would be able to bring the consultations to a successful conclusion, and that he was prepared to authorize him to devote several meetings to those consultations. He invited delegations to state their views on all the questions related to the proposed medium-term plan.

24. Mr. DINU (Romania) said that he was somewhat puzzled to see that, even though delegations were aware of the existing problems - the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination having already had lengthy discussions about them, particularly during the spring of 1990 - the other Main Committees of the General Assembly had not forwarded comments on the subject to the Fifth Committee. As he did not wish to re-open in the Fifth Committee a debate which had uncertain prospects of success, his delegation supported the proposal that Mr. Tommo Monthe should conduct informal consultations which he hoped would benefit from the views of the relevant Committees.

25. Mr. HAAS (Germany) said that his delegation was also among the "puzzled delegations" which were surprised that the Special Political Committee had not had any comments to make on such a basic issue. He asked whether the Chairman could write to the Chairman of the Special Political Committee, explaining to him the dilemma with which the Fifth Committee was faced and requesting his Committee's views.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that while such an approach was possible, he doubted that it would be useful.

27. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda), recalling that at the beginning of the consideration of agenda item 119, his delegation had emphasized the value to the Fifth Committee of the comments of the other Main Committees on the proposed medium-term plan, said

(Mr. Etuket, Uganda)

that the Special Political Committee could at least make an effort to examine in further detail and clarify the concept of peace-making.

28. The CHAIRMAN said he was convinced that through effort and good will the Fifth Committee would arrive at a solution.

29. Ms. BERENGUER (Brazil) said that she supported the proposal made by Germany and would appreciate it if the Chairman could give a more specific answer on the subject. She also repeated the request which she had made to the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division concerning programme 36.

30. The CHAIRMAN said that he would contact the Chairman of the Special Political Committee to try to convince him to give further thought to the question of the concept of peace-making.

31. Ms. BERENGUER (Brazil) thanked the Chairman and said that that was the best course of action.

32. Mr. MORDACO (France) said that he also associated himself with the puzzled delegations which were surprised that the Main Committees which had been consulted had not made comments on the question in dispute. His delegation was not in favour of a detailed consideration of all the subprogrammes in the proposed medium-term plan. It believed that the Fifth Committee could not be competent in all technical fields and therefore supported the German proposal. Nevertheless, he considered designation of Mr. Tommo Monthe to conduct informal consultations to be a positive step.

33. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said that his delegation was ready to assume the different roles assigned to it within the Special Political Committee and the Fifth Committee. When his delegation had requested that the views of the various Main Committees should be sought with regard to the medium-term plan, including the question of peace-making, its intention had been to facilitate the work of the Fifth Committee. Resorting to the good offices of the Chairman of the Fifth Committee and the Chairman of the Special Political Committee would also facilitate the Committee's work, and his delegation considered the German proposal to be worthwhile.

34. The CHAIRMAN said that his initial reaction to the German proposal had been dictated by prior experience. The Chairman of the Fifth Committee had often sent letters to the chairmen of the other Main Committees and their replies had been fairly similar to that of the Special Political Committee. Nevertheless, if the Committee so wished, he would contact the Chairman of that Committee and attempt to work out an arrangement.

35. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that, in order to be really useful, the comments submitted by the other Committees must reflect a consensus. While the Sixth Committee had expressed a common position, the Third Committee had confined itself to drawing attention to divergent views. Questions related to peace-keeping

(Mr. Kinchen, United Kingdom)

transcended Committee boundaries, and bodies other than the Special Political Committee, for example the Sixth Committee, might have an opinion to express. Accordingly, it might be a good idea to broaden the consultations.

AGENDA ITEM 123: JOINT INSPECTION UNIT (continued) (A/C.5/45/L.4/Rev.1)

36. Mr. KOULYK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-Chairman, introducing the revised text of the draft resolution on the Joint Inspection Unit (A/C.5/45/L.4/Rev.1), presented the amendments which had been made to the initial draft (A/C.5/45/L.4) on the basis of informal consultations. First, it had been decided to move paragraph 2, making it the third preambular paragraph of the new draft. Secondly, a typographical error had crept into the English version, where the verb "to make" should be replaced by "to take" in paragraph 2 (a). Lastly, former paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.4 had been replaced by a text which had been adopted by consensus and renumbered paragraph 3 in the revised version.

37. Draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.4/Rev.1, as orally amended by the Vice-Chairman, was adopted without a vote.

38. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that the final draft resolution did not entirely reflect the balance which his delegation thought had been achieved; however, it deemed the text to be acceptable. He recalled that productivity was an important consideration in the performance of any of the administrative units of the Secretariat. His delegation expected the Secretary-General to give due weight to that fact in conducting the review mentioned in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.