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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 62nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TOMMO MONTHE (Cameroon)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSFILLE

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 123: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued) (A/40/7/Add.13, A/40/652, A/40/673 and Corr.1 (English only) and Add.1; A/C.5/40/5 and Add.1, A/C.5/40/6 and Corr.1, A/C.5/40/25, A/C.5/40/27, A/C.5/40/30, A/C.5/40/38, A/C.5/40/39, A/C.5/40/59 and Corr.1)

1. Mr. NEGRE (Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services) said that, while many delegations had noted the progress made towards improving the composition of the Secretariat, it was evident that the objectives of the medium-term plan of recruitment had not been fully achieved. Finding candidates with the right qualifications and of the right nationality, sex and age was not an easy task. In the case of senior posts, the criterion of whether a candidate came from a developing country also had to be considered. Many delegations had raised the question of the representation of developing countries at decision-making levels. Progress had been made in favour of the developing countries at the D-1 level and above, although it might be some time before change was noted because of the limited turnover at those levels. In the natural course of events, the situation would change as those appointed more recently advanced in their careers. A number of delegations had urged that the recruitment process should be speeded up, and had even suggested the establishment of time-limits. Although he appreciated the need to speed up the process, he felt that any directive in that regard should not be unduly rigid. Specific time-limits might create far more problems than they would solve.
2. With regard to the competitive examinations for recruitment at the P-1 and P-2 levels and the idea of extending them to the P-3 level on an experimental basis, he said that the external recruitment examinations were organized on a national basis. Competition was among nationals of the same Member State. Furthermore, only those P-3 posts for which there was external recruitment could be filled through competitive examinations. The other vacant P-3 posts would be filled through promotion from the P-2 level. If the Secretary-General's proposal was approved, P-3 posts would be selected for the examinations in a manner similar to that used for the selection of P-1 and P-2 posts. Since the examinations would be organized on an experimental basis, only a limited number of vacant P-3 posts would be reserved for them in the yearly recruitment plan by taking into account the projected total number of vacancies to be filled by recruitment in each occupational group selected. Once decisions on promotions to the P-3 level had been taken, some of the remaining posts would be offered to the candidates who were successful in the examination, in accordance with the recruitment plan.
3. The examination would comprise a general paper and a specialized paper, the latter requiring a higher level of expertise and covering the major sub-categories of the occupational groups selected. To qualify for the examination, candidates must possess relevant professional experience, as was indicated in paragraph 26 of document A/C.5/40/39. The candidate's experience and general qualities would be reviewed and evaluated during the oral examination by experts on the Boards of Examiners.

(Mr. Negre)

4. In reply to a question by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago, he said that internal candidates did not compete for the same P-1 and P-2 posts as external candidates. Therefore, the number of internal candidates who were successful in the examination could not be meaningfully compared to that of the external candidates, because of the differences in the number of available posts in each occupational group. Since the early 1980s, there had been a steady decline in the number of P-1 and P-2 posts available for promotion and recruitment. As he had stated earlier, that trend must be reversed.

5. The representative of Egypt had requested information concerning the number of vacancies in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Substantial progress had been made in that respect as a result of special measures and the close co-operation between Headquarters and the Commission. In 1984 there had been 30 vacant posts subject to the principle of equitable geographical distribution for which no candidates had been identified. That number had been reduced to six in June 1985 and currently stood at four.

6. He attached great importance to the question of career development. Special attention would be given to issues relating to the careers of women and staff serving on secondment.

7. The representative of the United States had requested information on mobility. The relevant data were being collected and would be made available in due course. In that connection, he stressed that ability and merit were prime elements taken into account when reassignments and promotions were considered.

8. The system of justice in the Secretariat was a complex problem in view of the special legal status of the Organization. The Secretariat had tried numerous ways to solve the problems in that field. Many of the special procedures worked rather well while others were less satisfactory. The feasibility of establishing an office of Ombudsman required further study so that proposals could be submitted on that question at the next session of the General Assembly.

9. Mrs. PULIDO DE BRICENO (Assistant Secretary-General, Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat) said that the debate had demonstrated the confidence of Member States in the ability of the Organization to act as an agent for change and develop new models for the international community, in order to ensure the highest standards of equality, efficiency, competence and integrity. Without the full participation of women, those goals could not be attained. The main obstacles to the full participation of women lay in the traditional attitudes concerning the role of women in society. Those obstacles could be overcome only through concerted efforts by both the Member States and the Organization.

10. It was gratifying to note that many delegations had spoken in favour of the Secretary-General's proposals to introduce specific measures to achieve full equality between women and men in the Secretariat. In reply to questions raised by the representatives of Trinidad and Tobago and Bangladesh, she said that there was

(Mrs. Pulido De Briceño)

no guarantee that the problems of women in the Organization could be solved within two years. It might take many years before women were fully integrated at all levels and in all fields of endeavour. The action programme was designed to initiate a process throughout the Organization that would become self-sustaining. At the present stage, it was essential for the Organization to achieve a breakthrough in its efforts to improve the status of women. Once the current impasse had been overcome, there would be no further need for a separate organizational unit to keep that process alive because the Organization as a whole would take over that role.

11. She assured delegations that the temporary appointment of a Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat did not imply the establishment of a separate unit for women. The role of the Co-ordinator was to support the work of the Office of Personnel Services by proposing and monitoring the introduction of a number of special measures and evaluating them throughout the Organization. The operational responsibility of the Office of Personnel Services in that regard was an essential component of the action programme. The problems facing women in the Organization could be solved only by examining the behaviour of the Secretariat as a whole. That required co-ordination throughout the Secretariat, as a temporary process, in accordance with the Secretary-General's action programme.

12. The representative of Bangladesh had said that the staffing of the office of the Co-ordinator appeared to be top-heavy. In that connection, she pointed out that the task of her office was to propose viable alternatives to current policies and practices within the administrative structure of the Secretariat. The implementation of the action programme required the development of a monitoring process throughout the Secretariat. The personnel needed to do that effectively must be highly qualified, experienced and innovative.

13. Many delegations had welcomed the emphasis in the action programme on the principle of equitable geographical distribution. That principle must be fully respected if the objectives of the programme were to be achieved. In that regard, she pointed out that the co-operation of all Member States was essential in order to ensure geographical balance between women and men in the Secretariat.

14. Mr. MONIRUZZAMAN (Bangladesh) said that the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services had neglected to mention any measures taken by the Secretariat in carrying out its mandate under section I, paragraph 6 (a), of General Assembly resolution 39/245, which requested the Secretary-General to implement recommendation 7 of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) with a view to facilitating an in-depth consideration of the matter of appointment of staff in the General Service category by the General Assembly at its fortieth session. In that recommendation, JIU suggested that the General Assembly might consider the possibility of requesting the Secretary-General to provide a report on the situation of General Service staff in the United Nations. His delegation had hoped that the Secretariat would have provided a detailed report in accordance with the JIU recommendation, so that the General Assembly could consider that matter in the context of its review

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of personnel questions at the forty-first session. His delegation had also expected information on the application of the population factor in the system of desirable ranges.

15. Mr. MURRAY (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the information provided in the statements by the two Assistant Secretaries-General would be helpful in current consultations on personnel questions and in the discussion of that agenda item at the next session of the General Assembly.

16. Mr. BOKHARI (Pakistan) said he shared the view expressed by the representative of Bangladesh that a number of important issues had been omitted in the statement made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services. He requested the Assistant Secretary-General to reply to the questions raised by his delegation in the general debate, particularly with regard to the application of the population factor in the system of desirable ranges.

17. Mr. MAKTARI (Yemen) expressed support for the Secretary-General's recommendations and proposals on personnel questions. He stressed the need to observe the principle of equitable geographical distribution, taking into account the interests of underrepresented countries, including his own. With regard to the question of recruitment, he said that the competitive examinations should be given in all the official languages of the United Nations so that candidates from underrepresented countries could be recruited on an equitable basis. Women should be recruited to fill as many posts as possible in the Secretariat, with due regard for the principle of geographical distribution. In another connection, his delegation requested a clarification of the use of the term "Israel Defence Forces" in paragraph 5 of the report of the Secretary-General on personnel questions (A/C.5/40/25). Under international law, such forces were considered occupation forces.

18. Mr. KUTTNER (United States of America) said he agreed with the Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services that the system of justice was a complex problem. Unless something was done to streamline the procedure, however, the situation would never change. His delegation believed that justice delayed was justice denied. Many cases before the Administrative Tribunal had been in litigation for as long as five years. That was clearly too long a period of time. It was hoped that the Assistant Secretary-General would be able to provide a list of cases being processed by his Office and the Joint Appeals Board. Furthermore, before each session of the Administrative Tribunal, delegations should be given a docket of cases. Such information would be helpful in the consideration of personnel questions at the next session of the General Assembly. Lastly, he stressed the need for a system of justice which was speedy, inexpensive and fair.

19. Mr. NEGRE (Assistant Secretary-General for Personnel Services) expressed regret that he had been unable to provide information in accordance with the requests made by the representatives of Bangladesh and Pakistan; that was because of the difficulty in obtaining certain statistical data and the general heavy work-load of the Office of Personnel Services. All such information, particularly

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with regard to the application of the population factor in the system of desirable ranges, would be provided at the next session of the General Assembly. He pointed out to the representative of Yemen that competitive examinations were currently offered in all six official languages of the United Nations. He had taken note of the observations made by the representative of the United States on the system of justice. Some progress had already been made in that area. The number of cases before the Joint Appeals Board had been reduced from 130 to fewer than 100. The functioning of the Administrative Tribunal was very complicated. In discussing that question, the Office of Personnel Services had to consult with the Office of Legal Affairs, which was more competent in the matter.

20. As for the clarification requested by the representative of Yemen regarding the use in document A/C.5/40/25, paragraph 5, of the term "Israel Defence Forces", he said that the report had been prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs. He would therefore convey the request to that Office.

21. Mrs. PULIDO DE BRICENO (Assistant Secretary-General, Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat) said that the action programme had initiated a process of change in the United Nations. Co-operation between the Member States and the Organization was essential in order to bring about real change.

AGENDA ITEM 116: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1986-1987 (continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.87 concerning agenda item 73 (A/C.5/40/88)

22. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the amount for conference-servicing requirements had been estimated at \$384,300, to be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements for 1986.

23. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/40/L.87, as orally revised, the conference-servicing requirements had been estimated, on a full-cost basis, at \$384,300. The actual additional appropriations that might be required would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements to be submitted later in the session.

24. Mr. KHALEVINSKIY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was the prerogative of the Security Council to deal with matters relating to collective security. Accordingly, the financial resources to be used for the proposed new committee would be an unjustified duplication of resources.

25. At the request of the representative of the United States, a recorded vote was taken on the proposal.

In favour: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Belgium, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Fiji, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, Netherlands, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Viet Nam.

26. The proposal was adopted by 69 votes to 17, with 14 abstentions.

27. Mrs. RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela) said that, had she been present, she would have voted in favour of the proposal.

28. Mr. GITSOV (Bulgaria) said that, had he been present, he would have voted against the proposal.

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution in document A/40/29 concerning agenda item 66 (A/C.5/40/89)

29. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the conference-servicing requirements had been estimated at \$536,600 for the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, \$645,400 for the second session and \$806,700 for the third session. Those amounts would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements.

30. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/40/29, the conference-servicing requirements had been estimated, on a full-cost basis, at

(The Chairman)

\$1,988,700. The actual additional appropriations that might be required would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements to be submitted later in the session.

31. It was so decided.

32. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that, although his delegation had gone along with the consensus, he wished to draw the Committee's attention to the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of conference resources (A/AC.172/88/Add.3), which set forth the amount of time lost or unused by various bodies. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean was high up on the list, having failed to use 60 per cent of the time allotted to it for its first and second sessions in 1984, and 50 per cent of the time allotted for its third session. His delegation would bear those statistics in mind when the Committee considered the consolidated statement of conference-servicing requirements.

First reading of individual sections of the budget (continued)

Section 2A. Department of Political and Security Council Affairs (continued)
(A/C.5/40/CRP.3)

33. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at its 28th meeting the Committee had decided to approve the retention of the P-5 temporary post referred to in paragraph 2A.24, on the understanding that the appropriations for that post would be considered at a later meeting after the issue had been examined by the Advisory Committee.

34. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had exchanged views with the representatives of the Secretary-General. Taking into account the information it had been given concerning the possibility of absorbing some of the costs involved, the Advisory Committee recommended that for the temporary P-5 post approved by the Fifth Committee, an appropriation of \$80,000 should be made under section 2A (down from the original estimate of \$157,400), with an additional appropriation of \$24,000 under section 31 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

35. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Fifth Committee should approve an appropriation of \$80,000 under section 2A, with an appropriation of \$24,000 under section 31, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

36. At the request of the representative of the United States, a recorded vote was taken on the proposal.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burma, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau,

Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Fiji, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Greece, Iceland.

37. The proposal was adopted by 79 votes to 22, with 2 abstentions.

38. The CHAIRMAN, recalling that a number of questions had been asked concerning the news service of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs drew attention to document A/C.5/40/CRP.3.

39. Mr. DEVREUX (Belgium) said that the report before the Committee, which purported to be a preliminary report on the internal evaluation of the News Service did not answer all the questions which delegations had raised. For example, paragraph 6 did not appear to answer the question whether there was a mandate for the News Service. Moreover, although a few figures were given in paragraph 8, the Committee had not been told what the cost of the News Service was. Surely it would have been possible, even in the short space of one month since the question had first been raised in the Committee, to give it an idea of the total cost of the Service. If the report did not provide answers to the simple questions which had been raised, could delegations expect it to answer the more complex questions which were still under consideration? How could it be said with any assurance that the end-users were satisfied with the services provided? Why had the request for a sample of the work of the News Service not been complied with?

40. Mr. ORSATELLI (France) recalled that his delegation and numerous others had expressed a number of concerns regarding, inter alia, the apparent lack of any mandate for the News Service and the fact that staffing did not appear to be a problem in the News Service since the original staff of 7 had been increased to 13 by redeployment from other units in the Secretariat. That was important, for it appeared that the News Service was being given priority over other units. It would be useful to know what the News Service did which the Department of Public Information, which had a substantial budget of its own, could not do. Member States which had seen samples of the work of the Service reported that it was of little use and of inferior quality.

(Mr. Orsatelli, France)

41. His delegation would be extremely concerned if the evaluation study were to be continued along the lines currently envisaged, for to base an evaluation upon the opinion of the end-users was as useful as asking a child if he or she liked candy. Until his delegation received a serious evaluation of the work of the News Service, it would not be convinced that the Service should continue at its current level of activity.

42. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) expressed a number of reservations concerning the document before the Committee. First of all, he expressed concern at the long delay there had been in getting down to preparing the evaluation. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) had been told as far back as May that the study would be undertaken in the near future, yet the results of the study were still not available and the Fifth Committee was not in a position to take a well-informed decision on the funds being requested. Secondly, considering the doubts expressed by CPC in paragraph 50 of its report (A/40/38), the proposal to expand the staff of the News Service by some 90 per cent was unusual to say the least. Noting that paragraph 8 of the preliminary report stated what the cost was of the regular staff and of the staff redeployed under ad hoc arrangements from other sections, he asked what was the estimated additional cost in terms of material, equipment, rental of telegraph lines and subscription to news services, or if those costs were covered under another section. He would also like to know how many readers made use of the material provided by the Service. Was it only Under-Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General or was it their entire staffs? His delegation would welcome information on the cost per copy of the daily news bulletins.

43. Finally, he noted that the Department of Public Information had a substantial budget of its own and that the News Service definitely appeared to duplicate the activities of that Department.

44. Mr. WORKU (Ethiopia) said that, although document A/C.5/40/CRP.3 contained only a preliminary report, it provided some valuable information, particularly on the purpose, background and mandate of the News Service (para. 6). In that connection, he also wished to refer to General Assembly resolution 37/67 on the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization and to the note by the President of the Security Council of 12 September 1983 (S/15971), particularly paragraphs 11 and 13. His delegation believed that the rationale for the action taken in the area under consideration was both clear and justified. The need for the News Service was unquestionable. His delegation acknowledged that many of the questions raised both in the Fifth Committee and in CPC were legitimate and that the report before the Committee unfortunately did not provide the necessary answers. However, it must be recognized that the Administrative Management Service had been under severe time pressure. His delegation hoped that the final report that was to be submitted to CPC would answer all the questions that had been raised and that the Fifth Committee would have that report before it at the next session. In the mean time, Ethiopia was willing to consider any suggestions that might be put forward on ways of dealing with the subject-matter in question.

45. Mr. MAJOLI (Italy) said that a simple glance at document A/C.5/40/CRP.3 showed that there was duplication of work. Furthermore, he assumed from the statement in paragraph 11 that in general the response of the principal end-users had been quite positive actually meant that the response had not been positive at all.
46. Mr. ODUYEMI (Nigeria) said that the document was disappointing and by no means answered all the questions raised. Furthermore, account must be taken not only of the views expressed by the end-users but also of those expressed by delegations. Member States were questioning the modus operandi of the Service and its output. His delegation was still not entirely convinced that the function fulfilled by the News Service could not be fulfilled by the Department of Public Information. In any event, if the Service was going to have such a large staff, account must be taken of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, as far as practicable. His delegation would appreciate it if the Secretariat submitted, at the next session, a report clarifying the actual function of the Service. The Committee should postpone a decision on the matter for the time being in order to give delegations time to hold consultations.
47. Ms. BYRNE (Ireland) said that her delegation recognized that the document before the Committee was an interim report. It hoped that the final report would address the concerns voiced in the Committee, particularly those relating to editorial integrity, the balance of sources and staffing levels.
48. Mr. BOKHARI (Pakistan) said that his delegation fully shared the concerns voiced by other delegations, particularly the Nigerian delegation. The note by the Secretariat (A/C.5/40/CRP.3) was quite derisory. It was to be hoped that the Secretary-General would take steps to correct the situation, with a view to making the activities of the News Service conform to the wishes of Member States. The Service was of great importance to third-world countries, and it was essential that the news coverage should reflect a proper balance of information. The Secretary-General must be kept informed in an objective manner, particularly in view of the importance of preventive diplomacy. It was therefore important that there should be an appropriate balance in the staffing of the Service and that the Service should not focus on particular wire services. It was also important that there should be clear delegation of authority in the Service, as well as a clear concept of accountability. The whole matter should be kept under close review, and it was to be hoped that the question could be taken up in CPC. Furthermore, delegations should hold consultations on the question.
49. Mr. DANUS (Chile) said that the news coverage of the Service must be as balanced as possible. There should be greater coverage of events in countries in the third world, particularly Latin America.
50. Mr. LADJOUZI (Algeria) said that he was somewhat puzzled by paragraph 2 of the note by the Secretariat, particularly the statement that the evaluation was scheduled for completion in February 1986 and that the results would be available to CPC in time for its twenty-sixth session. Delegations would not be in a position to adopt a decision on the matter until they had the evaluation before them. The preliminary report itself was so brief that his delegation would be unable to support a decision based on it.

51. Miss DURRANT (Jamaica) said that her delegation shared some of the concerns voiced by other delegations. It would be normal to expect more information just two months before the completion of an evaluation process. It was essential that balance and objectivity should be ensured in the news coverage, but the note by the Secretariat did not give any idea of how that was being achieved. Furthermore, it seemed that there was some measure of dissatisfaction among end-users. Her delegation supported the Nigerian suggestion that any decision on the matter should be deferred for the time being in order to allow delegations to hold consultations.

52. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would return to the question at a later point. He wished to encourage delegations to hold consultations in the mean time.

Section 20. International drug control (continued)

53. Mr. FONTAINE ORTIZ (Cuba) said that, had his delegation been present when the Committee had approved in first reading an amount of \$5,665,300 under section 20 of the programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987, it would have voted in favour of that decision.

Programme budget implications of the recommendations in document A/40/24 (Part II) concerning agenda item 34 (continued) (A/C.5/40/87)

54. Mr. SPAIN (Guinea-Bissau) said that, had his delegation been present when the Committee had voted on the programme budget implications in question, it would have voted in favour.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.