



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FONTAINE ORTIZ (Cuba)

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

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AGENDA ITEM 38: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS TO REVIEW THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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3 p.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 38: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS TO REVIEW THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/41/49 and 663)

Organization of work

1. The CHAIRMAN read out an extract from the statement by the President of the General Assembly, indicating that the general debate on the agenda item had been suspended in plenary; the question had been referred to the Fifth Committee so that it could, in turn, submit its conclusions to the Assembly, which would resume consideration of the item by 30 October at the latest. In order to facilitate the Committee's work, the President of the Assembly had announced that he would hold consultations with the representatives of all the regional groups in order to seek a consensus.
2. He proposed that the Committee should meet informally to consider the report of the Group of 18 chapter by chapter. The representatives of the Secretary-General would reply to delegations' questions. For the consideration of chapter VI, the procedure would be slightly different. A distinction would be made between the measures on which agreement was imminent and those which were still pending. The Committee would be required to express an opinion only on the latter.
3. Mr. FAREED (Pakistan) said that he would like to have a written programme of work. In addition, he was not sure whether informal meetings were the appropriate framework for the consideration of the questions which had been referred to the Committee.
4. The CHAIRMAN replied that the statement made by the President of the General Assembly was available in Spanish. Since the various points of view had already been stated in plenary meetings of the Assembly, delegations were aware of the difficulties raised by the report under consideration. They would therefore be able to focus on specific problems and to submit precise proposals on each one.
5. Mr. OTHMAN (Jordan) asked what exactly would be the scope of the discussions. He wished to know whether representatives of the Secretariat and of the Group of 18 would attend the informal meetings to answer delegations' questions.
6. The CHAIRMAN explained that the informal meetings would be devoted exclusively to the consideration of agenda item 38 and more particularly to the report of the Group of 18. With regard to the conduct of the discussion, it would not be desirable to have a question-and-answer session each day. It would be better to have such a session after the consideration of each problem requiring the presence of representatives of the Group of 18 or of the Secretariat.

7. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that he too would like to have the text of the statement by the President of the General Assembly. The Fifth Committee should restrict its activities to the mandate entrusted to it by the Assembly. If it exceeded that mandate, the United Kingdom delegation would have to express reservations, especially regarding chapter VI. It expected the Committee to reconsider the procedure, if necessary.
8. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to meet informally.
9. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.