

63. Mr. PRICE (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services) said that he was prepared to supply any additional information. He would, however, like to know what type of information representatives wished to have. He pointed out that any changes which might have been made in the original plans had in no way modified the decision of the General Assembly.

64. In answer to a question by the CHAIRMAN, Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands), Rapporteur, said that she would include in the Committee's re-

port the various observations made and questions put during the discussion.

65. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) thought that at the following session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General should submit a more complete report or refrain from submitting one.

The draft resolution submitted by the Chairman and amended by the representative of Belgium was adopted by 34 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Tuesday, 25 October 1949, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. A. KYROU (Greece).

Letter dated 21 October 1949 from the President of the General Assembly regarding joint meetings of the Joint Second and Third Committee with the Fifth Committee

1. The CHAIRMAN referred to a letter dated 21 October 1949 from the President of the General Assembly suggesting that joint meetings of the Joint Second and Third Committee and the Fifth Committee should begin on or about 1 November 1949 to consider the following questions: chapters V and VII of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/972); action taken in pursuance of the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies — report of the Economic and Social Council; problem of the proliferation and overlapping of the programmes of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies — item proposed by the representative of Brazil. In addition, such aspects of the item "Budget estimates for the financial year 1950: (b) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions" as related to the specialized agencies should be considered, including in particular the report of the Advisory Committee on the budgets of the specialized agencies for 1950.

2. The Chairman said he had approached the Chairman of the Joint Second and Third Committee, and it had been arranged that joint meetings of that Committee with the Fifth Committee would take place the following week.

Budget estimates for the financial year 1950: (a) budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General (A/903); (b) reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/934) (first reading continued)

PART IV

SECTION 20

3. The CHAIRMAN said the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had not completed its report relating to section 22, Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, and section 23, Economic Commission for Latin America; but reports on the following items would be distributed before the next meeting of the Fifth Committee: section 3, chapter I, Economic and

Social Council; chapter III, Commission on Human Rights; chapter XVI, Additional expenses for Geneva sessions; section 1, chapter IV, The International Law Commission; and section 21, Information Centres, with respect to the proposed Liberian Information Centre.

4. He suggested, therefore, that the Fifth Committee should begin discussion of part IV, section 20, The United Nations office at Geneva, and in that connexion draw the attention of Committee members to documents A/C.5/310 and A/C.5/322.

5. Sir William MATTHEWS (United Kingdom) said his delegation had given considerable thought and attention to the budget estimates submitted for the United Nations office at Geneva. It had observed that while there was a total reduction of 41 posts as compared with the numbers authorized for 1949, and a total increase of some 85,000 dollars in the estimates for that office, the interesting point regarding section 20 of the budget estimates was the fact that chapter IV of that section concerned the budget of the Economic Commission for Europe, which showed a net decrease of 38,630 dollars in its estimates of direct costs and gave a somewhat misleading picture of the real costs of that organ. If an estimate were made of the services rendered to the Economic Commission for Europe by the Conference and General Services staff of the Geneva office, and also the cost of general services such as travel, supply and printing of documents, it would be safe to add about 1 million dollars to the direct costs of 1,110,250 dollars. His delegation regretted that a special section of the budget had not been devoted exclusively to the Economic Commission for Europe as had been done in the case of the other regional commissions.

6. The United Kingdom Government agreed with the views expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 173 to 180 of its report (A/934) regarding the Economic Commission for Europe. That Commission should only undertake studies which would lead to practical results. His delegation therefore supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding common staff costs and home leave (paragraph 180).

7. His delegation also considered that the sixth session of the Trusteeship Council and the eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council should be held at headquarters and not at Geneva as had been suggested.

8. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the fact that in connexion with the budget of the Geneva office the Advisory Committee had recommended a reduction of 18,000 dollars in established posts and 2,000 dollars in cable charges. The Secretary-General had requested the full restoration of the proposed reductions, and his reasons therefor were given in document A/C.5/310.

9. Mr. JUTRAS (Canada) asked whether the staff of the World Health Organization was likely to increase in 1950, and whether the revenue of the United Nations office at Geneva would increase accordingly.

10. He inquired what was the size of the Conference staff of the Geneva office, whether it was busy when meetings were not in session, and if so, what work it did.

11. He also asked for particulars regarding admission of the public to meetings held at the Geneva office.

12. Mr. MODEROW (Director of the United Nations office at Geneva) said that one of the reasons why the Geneva office had asked for an increase in its budget was that the World Health Organization (WHO) was expected to expand considerably. The staff of WHO was expected to increase from 250 to 350 by the end of 1949 and to rise to 450 during 1950. A large part of that staff would be accommodated in the Palais des Nations, although some of them would have their offices in hutments erected by the Swiss authorities in the immediate neighbourhood of the Palais. It was not expected that WHO would set up its own general services, but would continue to be serviced by the United Nations Geneva office. It was for that reason that the estimates for the distribution and printing services and common services were higher than they had been in 1949. The United Nations Geneva office might have to submit supplementary estimates during 1950 if it were found that it was impossible to service WHO with the appropriations granted to it.

13. When no meetings were in session the staff at Geneva was employed in servicing the substantive and other non-administrative units of the United Nations as well as the specialized agencies. Of the 1,000 staff members working in the Palais des Nations about 640 were being serviced by the Conference and General Services of the United Nations Geneva office. As had been pointed out in the budget estimates, the problem of leave was very difficult to solve owing to the workload of the Geneva office. Many staff members were foregoing their leave in a way which was not desirable for sound administration.

14. The question of admitting visitors to the meetings held at the Palais des Nations had been raised on several occasions. No restrictions were placed on attendance at public meetings and during 1949 about 7,000 persons had been admitted to such meetings. In 1949 visits to the buildings had been organized on Sundays and expenses had been covered by using some of the permanent staff and paying overtime. Visits on week-days were restricted to persons recommended by international organizations. The total number of visitors admitted to the Palais des Nations on week-days amounted to about 6,000 in 1949. The expenditure for visits had amounted to about 10,000 dollars,

and if no special appropriation were made for that item the amount would be recovered from the item for temporary assistance. It should be pointed out in connexion with visitors to the Palais des Nations that the question of security arose, and that large numbers of visitors could not be allowed to enter the grounds when there were not enough guards on duty. Help in dealing with the problem of visitors had been sought from organizations situated in Geneva which were interested in the United Nations.

15. Mr. TARN (Poland), referring to paragraphs 165 and 168 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/934), asked for the comments of the Director of the United Nations office at Geneva on those paragraphs.

16. Mr. MODEROW (Director of the United Nations office at Geneva) said the Geneva office had reached the conclusion that if the workload assigned to it in connexion with the social welfare programme was to be met, no reduction could be made in the budget estimates of the services concerned.

17. Referring to paragraph 168 of the Advisory Committee's report, relating to the Documents Registry and Distribution Service and the Publications and Sales Service, he pointed out that those units serviced WHO. The Secretary-General had asked for the restoration of the three posts which the Advisory Committee had suggested should be cut.

18. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) said that the estimates before the Committee had been prepared on the assumption that a certain number of meetings would be held at Geneva in 1950. It was not clear how many meetings the budget estimates covered, and without those particulars the Committee could not reach a decision. Paragraph 161 of the Advisory Committee's report mentioned 1,875 meetings. He asked if the Director of the United Nations office at Geneva could confirm that they expected to have four medium-to-large conferences in Geneva during 1950.

19. As regards the question of simultaneous interpretation equipment in Geneva, he asked what practical advantages would result if an extra committee room were so supplied.

20. Referring to page 180 of the budget estimates (A/903), he asked for an explanation regarding the figures given in the fourth paragraph, as there seemed to be some inconsistency between those figures and the ones supplied by the Advisory Committee with respect to numbers of meetings.

21. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the answer to the first question asked by the Brazilian representative appeared in document A/C.5/322.

22. Mr. MODEROW (Director of the United Nations office at Geneva) pointed out that the Advisory Committee had in its figures allowed for 400 meetings to be held at the Palais des Nations by the International Labour Organisation. Although such meetings would not need the services of the United Nations Conference and General Services, they affected the Building Management and Engineering Service.

23. Referring to the paragraph on page 177 of the budget estimates which stated that "In general, the 1950 estimates for general services are

based, as were those of 1949, on the assumption that the conference workload will consist of about four meetings per day plus four medium-to-large conferences (for example, two commissions meeting at approximately the same time, or the conference of a specialized agency). Experience has shown that this assumption is sound", he pointed out that when the budget was drawn up no one knew exactly how many conferences would take place in Geneva.

24. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil), speaking on a point of order, referred to the third paragraph of document A/C.5/310 where it was stated that "In paragraph 162 of its report, the Advisory Committee states that on the budget which they recommend, the Geneva office could cover increases in workload above the original estimate of 1875 meetings." He also referred to document A/C.5/322 where it was stated that the number of meetings scheduled for Geneva in 1950 amounted to 1470. He agreed with the Director of the United Nations office at Geneva that no one could say exactly how many meetings would be held at Geneva during 1950, but pointed out that the budget estimates should be based on a certain number. There seemed to be some discrepancy in the figures given in the two documents he had quoted.

25. Mr. MODEROW (Director of the United Nations office at Geneva) said the figure of 1,470 given in document A/C.5/322 was correct and was based on information received from the organizations concerned. That figure did not include some 400 meetings of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

26. Referring to the question of supplying an extra committee room with simultaneous interpretation equipment, he wished to suggest the restoration of the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee. Simultaneous interpretation saved time and money and it would therefore be a good investment so to equip an extra committee room at Geneva and thus save money on the hiring of equipment.

27. Referring to the figures given at the bottom of page 180 of the budget estimates (A/903), he explained that the phrase "interpreter meetings" meant that one interpreter attended one meeting. In connexion with the Languages and Stenographic Service, he pointed out that there were no précis-writers on the staff of the Geneva office; translators were used for that purpose except in peak periods when temporary précis-writers were employed.

28. Mr. SHANN (Australia) said that the Secretary-General's estimate of 633 established posts for the whole Geneva office showed a considerable reduction on the 674 posts authorized for 1949, and that his delegation could not support the further reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee, in view of the Secretary-General's position as stated in document A/C.5/310.

29. There was much weight in the Advisory Committee's recommendation (A/934, paragraph 163) that the Secretary-General should do all in his power to secure a more even distribution of meetings over the year, with a view to reducing peak periods, though he conceded that the blame for poor planning lay mainly with delegations. He wondered whether it was the practice for the Secretary-General to inform conferences planning

to meet at Geneva of the state of the programme of meetings, in order to enable them to arrange for their next meetings to be held during slack periods.

30. With regard to the Economic Commission for Europe, the Advisory Committee appeared to take too narrow a view of its work in regarding it, according to paragraph 175 of its report, as resulting from the devastation of war. Such a view discounted the very high value of the annual *Economic Survey of Europe*, for example, which, under the direction of Mr. Kaldor, had become one of the most valued and influential publications of the United Nations. It was understood that the latter had left the staff of the Economic Commission for Europe, and the Australian delegation thought it highly desirable that his services should be retained in some capacity, if at all possible, in connexion with the work of the Research and Planning Division of the Commission. His delegation considered that the Economic Commission for Europe was doing valuable work, and would support the Secretary-General's revised estimate.

31. The Jam Saheb of NAWANAGAR (India) recalled that, in the general debate, he had supported the principle of holding meetings in countries other than the United States, but he had specified soft-currency countries. As Swiss currency was as difficult to obtain as United States dollars, he could not support the choice of Geneva for meetings. If the meetings in question were held at Lake Success, not only would the United Nations be saved the extra expense entailed by holding them in Geneva, but Member States would be able to send their permanent representatives without extra cost. He would therefore support any proposal for meetings to be held at the Lake Success headquarters, with exceptions in favour of Member countries.

32. Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa) fully supported the representative of India. In his view, there was no reason to justify the extra cost of holding the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. The difference between the revised estimates for the Geneva office drawn up by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee, respectively, amounted to some 190,000 dollars (A/C.5/310). The extra cost involved in holding the meetings of the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council in Geneva was estimated at about 175,000 dollars (A/C.5/322). If the extra sums required for the meeting of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva were added (A/C.5/319), the total would approximate that of the much-debated excess of the Secretary-General's estimate over that of the Advisory Committee for the entire Geneva office. The Fifth Committee would not be justified in examining the one sum with the strictest care and accepting the appropriation for the other without a second thought. On grounds of efficiency, too, the meetings should be at Lake Success, since some fifty Member States maintained permanent delegations there, whereas in Geneva there were only fifteen, of which half were members of the Economic and Social Council. Many Members had been unable to send representatives to attend the recent session of that Council, which had been held just before the opening of the fourth session of the General Assembly at Lake Success. The additional circum-

stance that the Council's report had not been issued until after the opening of the General Assembly had contributed to the comparative ignorance on the part of many delegations as to the decisions reached during the Council's session. Such occurrences should be avoided, and his delegation would vote against the holding of the meetings in question in Geneva.

33. He noted that the estimate for the Information Services was higher than the preceding year (A/903, page 188), and asked on what grounds it was assumed that the workload would increase, despite the opening of new Information Centres in Europe which might be expected to take over some of the work previously done by the Geneva office.

34. In conclusion, he expressed surprise that justification for the 1950 estimates should be sought by comparison with the League of Nations appropriations for 1938. Many representatives were unfamiliar with the details of the League of Nations Secretariat, and could not evaluate such comparisons.

35. The CHAIRMAN said he would ask the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information to answer the question about the Information Services at Geneva at a later stage, during the discussion on section 20, chapter II, of the Secretary-General's estimates.

36. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) said the Fifth Committee should first settle the budget for the Geneva office, and afterwards consider what organs could hold meetings there within the limits of that budget.

37. Mr. MODEROW (Director of the United Nations office at Geneva), replying to the South African representative, said that the League of Nations had made great efforts to exercise the strictest economy in its Secretariat, and had appointed a supervisory body to attain that objective. A comparison with the League's expenses in its last normal year was, therefore, not out of place. It was of interest to note that in 1938 the League had employed a permanent staff of 650 persons in the building that would contain 1,000 employees in December 1949. The comparison was valid only regarding personnel figures, as the volume of documents produced in the United Nations was much greater than that of the League.

38. Mr. АША (Syria) supported previous speakers who had opposed the holding of certain meetings in Geneva instead of at Lake Success. His own delegation had a permanent representative in New York who would be able to attend the meetings if they were held at Lake Success, but would be unable to send a representative if they were held in Geneva. In the latter case, his delegation would not be represented when the question of the Economic Commission for the Middle East was discussed.

39. With regard to paragraph 170 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/934), he asked if the Chairman of that Committee could say whether it appeared that the number of organizational units was excessively high in the Geneva office.

40. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that his Committee felt strongly that a top-heavy structure resulted from insufficient care in keeping organizational units to the bare minimum, and had found it necessary to

emphasize that view in connexion with several sections of the budget. It must be said, however, that there was less cause for anxiety on that score in the case of the Geneva office than in the case of other departments of the Secretariat.

41. Mr. MODEROW (Director of the United Nations office at Geneva) pointed out that he could not change the structure of units engaged on substantive work at the Geneva office; his authority extended only to the administrative services. It would be seen that he had acted in accordance with the principle advocated by the Advisory Committee and had amalgamated into one division several units whose work required co-ordination.

42. Mr. TARN (Poland) objected to the manner in which some members of the Fifth Committee were trying to reverse, on budgetary grounds, decisions taken by organs of the United Nations on political grounds. The cost of holding the third session of the General Assembly in Paris had been high, yet it had been agreed that it should be held there. The President of the United States himself had, the previous day, suggested that the General Assembly might sometimes meet in countries other than the United States, even when the permanent headquarters of the United Nations had been completed. That suggestion had not been based on considerations of saving money, but on broad political grounds. Mr. Tarn suggested that the Secretary-General should draw up a plan in the framework of his budget, allowing for a certain number of meetings to be held in countries other than the United States, and propose that the organs of the United Nations should adhere to that plan. Some said that the United Nations simply had not the money to pay for sessions of its organs in Geneva; yet the Organization had money for less important matters. The session of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press in Montevideo had been approved; he could see no justification for failing to accept the financial implications of the meetings in Geneva. He proposed that the Committee should accept the Secretary-General's estimates, but request him to prepare a plan and inform organs in advance of the possibilities for holding meetings elsewhere than at Lake Success.

43. The Jam Saheb of NAWANAGAR (India) disagreed with the Polish representative on the grounds that the Fifth Committee was not a policy-making body and was required to carry out the decisions of other bodies of the United Nations with the minimum expenditure.

44. Mr. TARN (Poland) did not agree; if the Fifth Committee were to be considered responsible only for budget matters, there would be no common ground for agreement between it and the other organs of the United Nations.

45. Mr. NASS (Venezuela) considered there was a *non-sequitur* in the suggestion that as the Committee had agreed to the holding of the session of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and the Press in Montevideo, it should therefore raise no objection to the two Councils holding their sessions in Geneva. The former was a functional Sub-Commission with a small membership; moreover, the Government of Uruguay had undertaken to defray the additional expenses incurred through holding the session in Uruguay. The expenses resulting from the two Council

meetings would have to be paid by the United Nations and the sum involved would be considerably higher than in the case of the Sub-Commission. There could therefore be no comparison.

46. Nor did he agree that the Fifth Committee was not concerned with the policy governing the place in which meetings were to be held. On the contrary, it was responsible for the general administration of the United Nations and must not shirk that responsibility.

47. He recalled that a meeting of the parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) had been held in Annecy, France, because the meeting of the Economic and Social Council had occupied all available space in the Geneva office. He asked whether the planned meeting of that Council in Geneva would again mean the denial of space or services for the GATT meeting or any other bodies which normally met there.

48. Mr. MONTEL (France) welcomed the statement of the Polish representative. The holding of meetings outside the headquarters resulted in valuable publicity for the aims and achievements of the United Nations, and should not be refused without due consideration of those advantages. Moreover, the Fifth Committee should take care not to encroach on the province of other bodies which were responsible for deciding where their meetings were to be held.

Chapter I

49. The CHAIRMAN asked representatives to present their detailed comments on chapter I, General Services, of section 20.

50. Mr. VAN ASCH VAN WIJCK (Netherlands) expressed high appreciation of the library at Geneva. The collection was of particular value because so many libraries in Europe had been destroyed during the war. It was therefore important that nothing should be done to hamper its work or disperse the collection. He noted with some astonishment, however, that paragraph 19 (g) of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/298) stated that the income of the Geneva Library from the Library Endowment Fund would be used, *inter alia*, for purposes "not inconsistent with the terms of the grant". Surely it would have been more proper to say that it was intended to use the income for purposes fully consistent with the terms of the grant. Furthermore, he was of the opinion that the approval given by the Economic and Social Council on the understanding that the works in the library should continue to be housed in the European headquarters of the United Nations did not only concern arrangements for long-term loans to the World Health Organization as would seem to follow from paragraph 20 of the same report, but had a much more general character. In addition to an assurance on that point, he would welcome an explanation of the fact that the income of the Library Endowment fund in 1949 had apparently been 23,000 dollars, but was expected to drop to 14,000 dollars in 1950 (A/903, page 201).

51. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) suggested that chapters I, V, VI and VIII of section 20 should be put to the vote simultaneously, as they were closely related. He moved formally that the sum of the Advisory Committee's estimates on those chapters should be augmented by 40,000 dollars to enable

the Secretary-General to install simultaneous interpretation equipment in another committee-room at Geneva.

52. He asked the Director of the Geneva Office how many meetings could be serviced if the Committee accepted the Advisory Committee's estimates, augmented by 40,000 dollars.

53. Mr. MODEROW (Director of the United Nations office at Geneva) said that whether or not the extra facilities for simultaneous interpretation were available, it was impossible to estimate how long conferences would last. He was able to say definitely, however, that the installation of simultaneous interpretation equipment would result in the saving of time and money, although he could give no estimate of the actual sum involved. The number of meetings to be fully serviced would remain 1,470, as stated in document A/C.5/322, with respect to meetings to be held by Geneva-based organizations. To that number should be added 440, if the various meetings planned by headquarters-based organs were ultimately approved.

54. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) asked for the figure of meetings which could be serviced within the limitation of the reduced budget recommended by the Advisory Committee. Presumably the figure would be less than 1,875, since that number had been provided for in the Secretary-General's original estimate.

55. Mr. MODEROW (Director of the United Nations office at Geneva) said that the Geneva office would be able to service the 1,470 meetings to be held by Geneva-based organs and the 440 others on the assumption that additional credits would be granted as provided in document A/C.5/322.

56. In reply to a further question by Mr. MACHADO (Brazil), Mr. Moderow said that the cuts recommended by the Advisory Committee affected only a few of the staff concerned with Conference and General Services and some of the items under Common Services; they would not be likely to affect the servicing of the number of meetings contemplated.

57. Mr. ROSCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he would try to set forth the views of his delegation on the chapters under discussion, despite the complicated procedure being followed.

58. He endorsed the observations of the Polish representative on the necessity for arranging meetings of United Nations organs in places other than New York. The expenditure entailed was fully compensated for by the political advantages. The reasons why the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council and other bodies had elected to meet elsewhere than in New York were as good as those which had governed the decision to hold the first part of the third session of the General Assembly in Paris. In his opinion, the Fifth Committee should express in financial terms the financial implications of decisions reached after careful consideration in other bodies, and not attempt to reverse those decisions. He wholeheartedly supported the proposal that the meetings listed in document A/C.5/322 should be held in Geneva because of the political and economic advantages which far outweighed the inconvenience entailed for delegations.

59. The work of the United Nations in its Geneva office should not be hampered. He saw no general necessity to reduce the appropriations for 1950. Regarding established posts, he noted that the Advisory Committee recommended a cut of 18,000 dollars (A/C.5/310) in the Secretary-General's estimates; that estimate was, however, lower than the 1949 appropriation and he proposed that the cut be restored.
60. The estimate for such services as cables, telegraph, and radio, amounted to 13,000 dollars; in the opinion of his delegation, it should be reduced to 11,000 dollars.
61. The estimate for chapter V was the result of a precise calculation.
62. Regarding the estimate for chapter VI, Common Services, he would support the Advisory Committee's recommendation.
63. In conclusion, he said that his delegation valued the work of the Geneva office and considered that only those expenses which were not absolutely necessary to carry out that work should be reduced.
64. Sir William MATTHEWS (United Kingdom) opposed the proposal of the Brazilian representative for an additional appropriation of 40,000 dollars to install simultaneous interpretation equipment. In view of the projected transfer to the new headquarters, the administrative services of the United Nations should adopt a cautious policy regarding capital equipment, much of which might not be required for the new building. Some of the equipment in the Lake Success office would probably become available for installation at Geneva after the move. If 40,000 dollars were to be added to the appropriation, however, he would expect a saving to result from the installation of the equipment.
65. In conclusion, he said that the United Kingdom delegation would oppose any departure from the recommendations of the Advisory Committee concerning the Geneva Office.
66. Mr. HALL (United States of America) supported the Venezuelan representative, who had concluded that the Fifth Committee was competent to take certain decisions regarding the programme of meetings.
67. He was uncertain how to vote on the estimates under chapter I, V, VI and VII, since they would be affected by the subsequent decisions whether or not the various meetings were to be held in Geneva. His delegation was not opposed to occasional meetings away from headquarters of such bodies as the Trusteeship Council, the Visiting Mission to West Africa, the International Law Commission and the Civil Service Advisory Board. The Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights had each held meetings in Geneva, in their case it was doubtful that the advantages of the Geneva location for 1950 would justify the additional expense. If those two bodies did not meet in Geneva, the simultaneous interpretation equipment would not be necessary, and he would vote against the Brazilian proposal.
68. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee was examining the estimates at the first reading only and that changes resulting from decisions on where meetings should be held would be taken into consideration at the second reading.
69. Mr. LEBEAU (Belgium) said he would not comment on the question of whether or not certain meetings should be held at Geneva, as he understood the matter would be taken up again later. He could not, however, take a decision on the estimates themselves while he lacked complete information, particularly on the point concerning which the Brazilian representative had questioned the Director of the Geneva office. There still appeared to be an unexplained contradiction in the documents; whereas in document A/C.5/310 the Secretary-General's original estimate was stated to cover 1,875 meetings, (though no details were given to show how that total was reached), the total of "normal" meetings was given as 1,470 in document A/C.5/322. It would seem that the original total might have been arrived at by adding to the total of 1,470 "normal" meetings, the 440 meetings estimated for headquarter-based organs, the sum of which was 1,910, or approximately 1,875. If that reasoning were correct, no additional appropriation would be required in respect of the meetings of the headquarters-based organs.
70. Mr. MODEROW (Director of the United Nations office at Geneva) explained that the Advisory Committee's calculation had included in the total of 1,875 meetings the 400 meetings of the ILO, which did not require servicing by United Nations staff. The 440 meetings estimated for headquarters-based organs were included in a separate item for which additional appropriations would be required.
71. In response to a request by the Netherlands representative that the Advisory Committee's views might be heard, Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) explained that his Committee's estimates had been based on the programme of the Geneva-based organs (1,470 meetings), and had also taken into account the 400 meetings of the International Labour Organisation, to the meetings of which they had attached less importance, since they were not fully serviced by the Geneva office.
72. With regard to temporary assistance, he emphasized that the Advisory Committee had recommended no reductions under chapters I, III, and IV, and had, indeed, approved the addition of a further 35,000 dollars (A/1046, paragraph 3 (a)) to chapter I, if the Economic and Social Council were held in Geneva, thus bringing the total under that heading to 147,000 dollars.
73. It was not clear whether the "medium-to-large conferences" mentioned on page 177 of the budget estimates (A/903) referred to the Trusteeship Council and the Economic and Social Council, but he drew attention to the fact that, in addition to the 35,000 dollars provided for temporary assistance, it was proposed for both those conferences to bring technical personnel from headquarters.
74. To ease the Geneva workload, it had been recommended that only one of the two additional sessions contemplated under part I, section 3 of the budget estimates (A/903, page 33) should take place.
75. With regard to the Information centres, the Department of Public Information had stated that the opening of new centres would result in a

decrease in work for the larger offices. If that statement still held good, the Geneva Information Centre ought not to be requiring additional staff.

The Committee rejected, by 22 votes to 7, with 8 abstentions, the Secretary-General's proposal, that the sum of 20,000 dollars should be restored to the Advisory Committee's recommendations for chapter I of section 20.

The Committee rejected, by 20 votes to 14, with 4 abstentions, the USSR proposal to restore the amount of 18,000 dollars to the Advisory Committee's recommendations for chapter I of section 20.

The Committee approved, by 30 votes to none, with 11 abstentions, the Advisory Committee's recommendations for chapter I of section 20.

76. Mr. LEBEAU (Belgium) explained that his delegation was abstaining from voting on the whole of section 20 because it considered that the data furnished did not correspond to the facts, being based on ambiguities both in the documents and in the explanations given.

77. Mr. ROSCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that the matter on which the Committee had just voted also concerned the Economic Commission for Europe. To vote immediately upon appropriations for that Commission involved a certain risk, since it was as yet uncertain what effect the vote just taken upon chapter I would have upon chapter IV.

78. Mr. HALL (United States of America) thought that chapter VI was dependent on chapters II, III and IV and that to take an immediate vote on it would be premature.

79. Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa), recalling that the Director of the Geneva office had said that the office would still be able to service the number of conferences originally planned, even if the Advisory Committee's figures were adopted, asked how far the same was true of chapter VI, Common Services, since one of the items influencing chapter VI would be the number of conferences.

80. Mr. MODEROW (Director of the United Nations office at Geneva) explained that his statement had referred to the number of conferences of Geneva-based organizations (A/C.5/322). It must be remembered, in connexion with common services, that the Geneva estimates had not taken into account the expected increase of 200 in the staff of the World Health Organization; he thought it would be impossible to service such an increase without the restoration of 29,300 dollars, as requested in document A/C.5/310.

Chapter VII

81. With regard to chapter VII, Permanent Equipment, it was not correct to say that the installation of simultaneous interpretation was required for the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council; every conference held in Geneva asked for such interpretation.

82. Mr. PRICE (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services) stated, in reply to the question of the United Kingdom representative whether simultaneous interpretation equipment from Lake Success could not be transferred to Geneva, that he saw very little possibility of such a transfer. There were more committee rooms in the Manhattan building than at Lake Success, and the de-

mand for simultaneous interpretation would certainly be as great; it was expected that use would be made of all simultaneous interpretation equipment, and that additional equipment might even be required, when headquarters was moved from Lake Success to Manhattan.

83. Mr. ASHA (Syria) asked what the saving would be in consecutive interpretation, if the appropriation for simultaneous interpretation were restored.

84. Mr. MODEROW (Director of the United Nations office at Geneva) assured the meeting that general experience had shown that simultaneous interpretation saved both time and money; it was impossible, however, to give figures.

85. In answer to a question by the Netherlands representative whether such equipment could not be purchased with soft currency, Mr. Moderow promised to explore the possibilities. Much equipment was already being purchased in countries such as France, Luxembourg, and Belgium, but sources of the equipment in question had not been investigated.

The Brazilian proposal to restore the sum of 40,000 dollars to the Advisory Committee's recommendations for chapter VII of section 20 for the purpose of purchasing simultaneous interpretation equipment for the Geneva office, was adopted by 13 votes to 12, with 15 abstentions.

Chapter II

86. Mr. COHEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information) stated with respect to the budget estimates for Information Services at Geneva, that any reduction in the work falling on the central offices resulting from opening new Information centres could only be relative. The Geneva information services supplied the Near East, but the opening of any Information Centre in Cairo had not brought about any decrease in the work at Geneva since so many meetings of interest to the Middle East were held there.

87. The Geneva information services had, by agreement with the military or local authorities, extended their coverage to non-member countries; they were supplying information both to Switzerland itself, and to Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Germany and Romania. The workload, as also the usefulness, of the Geneva information services had consequently increased.

88. Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa) thought it more logical to service countries such as Bulgaria and Hungary through the Information Centres in Prague, Warsaw or Belgrade.

89. Mr. COHEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information) pointed out that there were both political and practical reasons why the countries in question should be serviced from Geneva. The Geneva information services were of vital interest to such countries, particularly since Geneva was the seat of the Economic Commission for Europe; news distributed through Prague or Warsaw would be only second-hand.

90. Furthermore, the Geneva information services had the great advantage of having at their disposal radio facilities, once the property of the League of Nations and since handed over in part to the United Nations, by agreement with the

Swiss radio authorities. They were thus able to broadcast from Geneva and also to relay broadcasts from Lake Success.

91. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) inquired whether the restoration of 25,000 dollars requested in document A/C.5/310 was intended to cover the Geneva information services' function as distributor of information regarding meetings held at the Geneva office, or regarding merely its more general functions.

92. Mr. COHEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information) said that it was difficult to separate the two functions; the restoration was intended to keep the Geneva information services at the peak of efficiency they had reached in 1949, a position more satisfactory than that of previous years.

93. Mr. ROSCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. The General Assembly, at its second session, had by resolution 166 (II) limited the staff in the larger Information centres to six, whereas the estimates under consideration specified seventeen for Geneva. He considered the sum of 99,850 dollars, as recommended by the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions quite adequate for the information services at Geneva, particularly in view of the large number of Information centres in Europe generally.

94. Mr. COHEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information) drew the USSR representative's attention to the fact that the Geneva information services had never been included under section 21, Information Centres, but always under section 20, United Nations office at Geneva, since the Geneva information services differed from the others in that they not merely disseminated but also originated information.

95. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that the 1950 budget estimates (A/903, page 189) stated that in future "emphasis would be devoted less to the coverage of meetings and the issue of press releases thereon, and more to the preparation of background and feature material".

96. The Advisory Committee, when originally trying to find a basis on which to decide the relative strengths of Information centres had been told by the Department of Public Information that there would be less work in Geneva if more centres were established; the Committee had taken that earlier statement into account when making its decision on the 1950 estimates.

97. Mr. COHEN (Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information) said that the staff of the Geneva information services could not issue press releases for all meetings; there had been over a thousand in the first six months of 1949. An understanding had therefore been reached, in particular with the Economic Commission for Europe, by which the releases were to be on a broader basis; that applied, however, only to the latter Commission and did not mean any decrease in the number of press releases required when special meetings were in progress.

98. Mr. HALL (United States of America) said that he would have difficulty in voting without knowing how many meetings the press and radio services might have to cover, in other words, whether the Trusteeship Council and the Economic and Social Council would be meeting in Geneva.

99. Mr. LEBEAU (Belgium) thought that, since it was known that 1,875 meetings could be serviced, it was immaterial what meetings they were; an immediate decision could be taken on the information services required to cover those meetings.

The Secretary-General's proposal that the sum of 25,200 dollars should be restored to the Advisory Committee's recommendations for chapter II of section 20, was rejected by 25 votes to 8, with 6 abstentions.

The Advisory Committee's recommendations for chapter II of section 20 were approved by 34 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

Chapter III

The Committee unanimously approved the Secretary-General's estimates for chapter III of section 20, Secretariat of the Permanent Central Opium Board and Narcotic Drugs Supervisory Body.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Wednesday, 26 October 1949, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. A. KYROU (Greece).

Budget estimates for the financial year 1950: (a) budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General (A/903); (b) reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/934) (first reading continued)

PART I SECTION 1 Chapter IV

1. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, since the Chairman of the International Law Commission was present and would be obliged to leave early, the

Committee should begin by considering section 1, chapter IV of the 1950 budget estimates, dealing with the International Law Commission.

It was so agreed.

On the Chairman's invitation, Mr. Hudson, Chairman of the International Law Commission, took his place at the Committee table.

2. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the Secretary-General's proposals (A/C.5/325), and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1051).

3. The Committee was called upon to decide whether honoraria should be paid to the Chair-