

mittee had noted that, on the whole, the 1976-1977 estimates were slightly less than those for 1974-1975. The Committee had, however, for the reasons stated in paragraph 11.18, recommended a reduction of \$31,000 in the provision for consultants, since it had been informed that the activity for which a similar amount had been budgeted in 1974-1975 had been completed. The Advisory Committee also recommended, in paragraph 11.11, a minor reduction in travel funds because it felt that the justification for the entire amount requested was not fully convincing.

92. The Advisory Committee had been informed that during the coming biennium UNCTAD would give priority to the following areas: primary commodities; economic co-operation among developing countries; transfer of technology; monetary and financial issues. In considering the staffing proposals made by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee had been guided by the above considerations. Accordingly, of the 26 new posts requested by the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee had recommended acceptance of 11 Professional and 6 General Service posts. The Committee had also accepted the request to convert 11 peak-load posts—5 Professional and 6 General Service—to permanent established posts. The Committee had approved that request on the understanding that requests for funds to finance peak-load posts would no longer be made in the future.

93. The request to reclassify 1 D-2 post to the level of Assistant Secretary-General had also been accepted by the Advisory Committee. However, that request had given the Advisory Committee a great deal of difficulty. The Committee was concerned at the fact that so far no precise criteria had been developed which could be used to determine whether a request of that nature was warranted or not. While the Committee realized that there were various considerations involved, it would be desirable for the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of developing guidelines to guard against the danger of having a secretariat which was too top-heavy.

94. The estimates under section 11 contained an amount of \$4,530,000 as the United Nations share of the assessed contribution to the joint UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre. In paragraphs 11.24, 11.25 and 11.27 of its report, the Advisory Committee had made recommendations concerning the estimates for the Centre, recommendations which, if accepted by all parties concerned, would have the effect of reducing the United Nations share by \$93,000. With regard to the action already taken on those estimates by the GATT Council, he trusted that the representative of the Secretary-General would in due course make a statement, after which he (Mr. Mselle) would inform the Fifth Committee of the position the Advisory Committee had taken in its consideration of that matter.

*The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.*

## 1762nd meeting

Saturday, 6 December 1975, at 10.40 a.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Christopher R. THOMAS (Trinidad and Tobago).

A/C.5/SR.1762

### AGENDA ITEM 107

**Financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/10350 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/10378, A/C.5/L.1267/Rev.2)**

*Draft decision A/C.5/L.1267/Rev.2 (concluded)*

1. The CHAIRMAN, as he had announced at the preceding meeting, put the revised draft decision (A/C.5/L.1267/Rev.2), as amended, to the vote.

*The draft decision was adopted by 65 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions.*

2. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium) asked what period was covered by the draft decision and what the magnitude of its financial implications would be.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that a date included in the original version of the draft decision had been omitted in the revised text so that it could be determined by negotiation. The Secretariat would make a statement on financial implications at a later stage.

### AGENDA ITEM 101

**Publications and documentation of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General (*concluded*)\***

*Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (A/C.5/L.1278)*

4. Mr. ABOUL GHEIT (Egypt), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/L.1278).

*The draft report was adopted.*

\* Resumed from the 1746th meeting.

## AGENDA ITEM 105

**United Nations salary system (concluded):\***

**(a) Report of the International Civil Service Commission (concluded):\***

**(b) Report of the Secretary-General (concluded):\***

*Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (A/C.5/L.1275)*

5. Mr. ABOUL GHEIT (Egypt), Rapporteur, introduced the draft report of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/L.1275) on the United Nations salary system.

6. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) drew attention to the first preambular paragraph of draft resolution B, appearing in paragraph 23, concerning interim changes in the post adjustment system; in fact the recommendations made by the International Civil Service Commission appeared only in paragraph 64 of its report (A/10030) and the draft resolution should be amended accordingly.

7. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it was too late to revise a text already adopted by the Committee.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that in view of the comment by the representative of the Soviet Union, the draft resolution could not be amended. The statement by the representative of the Philippines would, however, be reflected in the summary record.

*The draft report (A/C.5/L.1275) was adopted.*

## AGENDA ITEM 104

**Personnel questions (continued)\* (A/C.5/1672 and Corr.1, A/C.5/1716):**

**(a) Composition of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General (concluded):\***

*Draft report of the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly (part I) (A/C.5/L.1283)*

9. Mr. ABOUL GHEIT (Egypt), Rapporteur, introduced part I (A/C.5/L.1283) of the draft report of the Fifth Committee concerning the composition of the Secretariat; part II, on "other personnel questions", would be issued when the Committee had concluded its consideration of that part of the agenda item. He pointed out that New Zealand had been omitted in error from the list of additional sponsors in paragraph 25.

10. Mr. MATSEIKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) proposed that the last sentence of paragraph 12 should be amended to read: "Some representatives suggested that permanent contracts should be eliminated."

11. Mr. SETHI (India) proposed that the following text should be added at the end of paragraph 14: "One delegation, while abstaining from advocating radical changes in the current system, noted what it considered to be the lack of uniformity in the application of the three

main criteria governing the distribution among States of posts subject to the principle of geographical distribution, emphasizing in particular that the criterion of population was not applied in the same manner as the two others".

12. Mr. STOFORPOULOS (Greece) proposed that the following sentence should be added after the second sentence of paragraph 19: "One delegation pointed out that, in giving that priority, the Secretary-General should give a fair chance to women candidates from adequately represented countries."

13. Mr. AL-ZAID (Kuwait) proposed that the opening words of paragraph 19 should be amended to read "Several representatives supported", with a consequential change in the pronoun in the second sentence. The additional third sentence proposed by the representative of Greece would not be affected.

*The four amendments proposed were approved.*

*Part I (A/C.5/L.1283) of the draft report, as amended, was adopted.*

## AGENDA ITEM 98

**Administrative and budgetary co-ordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency: report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (continued)\* (A/10279 and Add.1, A/10280 and Add.1, A/10360, A/C.5/1704, A/C.5/L.1280/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.1282)**

14. Mr. BACHE (United States of America), introducing revised draft decision A/C.5/L.1280/Rev.1 on behalf of India and the United States, recalled that, at the 1755th meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management had asked for guidance on preparing the material which he was required to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Assembly resolution 2924 B (XXVII). The revised draft decision combined his delegation's suggestions with those of the representative of India.

15. Mr. NAUDY (France) congratulated the sponsors on clarifying the proposal. He interpreted the revised draft resolution as asking the Secretary-General to give his comments, observations and conclusions on the Joint Inspection Unit, as one component of the system of administrative and budgetary control, investigation and co-ordination of the United Nations.

16. Mr. LAVAU (Director of the Budget Division) said that the updating of document A/7938 of 21 September 1970, which was called for in the draft decision, might involve an expenditure of about \$1,500 for printing, but that expenditure could be met from the approved appropriation for the biennium.

17. Mr. SETHI (India) said that document A/7938 included financial information on the cost of various organs enumerated in the document. He understood that the

\* Resumed from the 1756th meeting.

\* Resumed from the 1758th meeting.

updated cost figures would relate to 1974, since the figures for 1975 might not be available.

18. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium) said that when the Secretary-General prepared the report called for by the draft decision he should bear in mind that the Fifth Committee had asked him to evaluate the work of the Administrative Management Service.

19. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee adopt draft decision A/C.5/L.1280/Rev.1 by consensus.

*It was so decided.*

20. Mr. RHODIUS (Netherlands), introducing a draft decision (A/C.5/L.1282), said that its provisions reflected the views of a large number of delegations.

21. Mr. KIVANÇ (Turkey) said that he saw no need to include the words "in depth" in subparagraph (f); their omission would improve the text. The type of discussion to be held at the thirty-first session, and subsequently in off-budget years, should be a matter for the Committee to decide at the time.

22. Mr. HART (Australia) said that it was important to consider the question of co-ordination on a regular basis, and he supported the inclusion of the words "in depth" to indicate the manner of consideration.

23. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the word "Endorse" in subparagraph (b) should be replaced by "Take note of".

24. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) proposed that the words "for their attention and necessary action" should be added after the word "concerned" in subparagraph (c).

25. Mr. SETHI (India) proposed that the words "the consultative machinery of" in subparagraph (d) should be deleted. He suggested that the phrase "the item on co-ordination" in subparagraph (f) might usefully be made more specific.

26. Mr. BACHE (United States of America) proposed the following formulation for subparagraph (f):

"Decides to consider in depth the item on administrative and budgetary co-ordination normally in off-budget years, starting from the thirty-first session".

27. Mr. RHODIUS (Netherlands) accepted the amendments proposed by the representatives of the Soviet Union, India and the United States of America. He understood that the representative of Turkey also accepted the formulation proposed by the United States representative for subparagraph (f). The objection of the representative of Pakistan could be met by adding the words "and necessary action" at the end of subparagraph (d).

28. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium) asked that the Advisory Committee, in its next report, should express its opinion on the functioning of ACC and give its views on ways in which administrative co-ordination might be improved and made less costly. He was aware that ACC was an intersecretariat body.

29. Mr. DIPP GOMEZ (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation attached great importance to the improvement of administrative and budgetary co-ordination and welcomed the draft decision, as amended.

30. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee adopt draft decision A/C.5/L.1282, as amended, by consensus.

*It was so decided.*

*Mr. Akashi (Japan), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

#### ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS XI A AND XI B SUBMITTED BY THE FOURTH COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/10427 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 23\* (A/C.5/1740, A/C.5/1741)

31. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the statements submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1740 and A/C.5/1741) concerning administrative and financial implications of draft resolutions XI B and XI A respectively, submitted by the Fourth Committee in its report (A/10427, para. 72). The Secretary-General indicated that the adoption of draft resolution XI A would not give rise to additional requirements. With regard to draft resolution XI B the Secretary-General advised that it would necessitate financial requirements of approximately \$45,000, but, in the absence of specific information, he would refrain from seeking additional appropriations; however, at the appropriate time, he would seek the consent of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to his incurring the necessary commitment under the provisions of the General Assembly resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

32. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had taken note of the course outlined by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/1740 and suggested that the Fifth Committee might wish to inform the General Assembly that, if draft resolution XI B of the Fourth Committee was adopted, the Secretary-General would be authorized to enter into commitments under the provisions of the resolution relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee.

33. With regard to draft resolution XI A the Advisory Committee wished him to propose that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that the adoption of the draft resolution would give rise to no additional financial requirements.

34. Mr. FELLAH (Algeria) said that the question of Spanish Sahara was of the greatest importance for the African countries. If the provisions of draft resolution XI B were implemented and the General Assembly confirmed the vote taken in the Fourth Committee, the fundamental

\* Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

principle of self-determination for colonial countries and peoples which had always guided the United Nations would be contravened. The draft resolution noted a *de facto* situation which had arisen without any consultations being held with the people of the region, and the sending of a representative of the United Nations to the region would have the effect of recognizing that fait accompli. He was anxious to have consultations with his colleagues and accordingly proposed that the Committee should defer consideration of the financial implications of the draft resolution.

35. Mr. TALIEH (Iran) said that if the Committee decided to defer consideration of the administrative and financial implications of one of the draft resolutions on the question of Spanish Sahara it should defer consideration of both draft resolutions.

*Mr. Thomas (Trinidad and Tobago) resumed the Chair.*

36. Mr. STOFORPOULOS (Greece) said that his delegation supported the proposal made by the representative of Algeria.

37. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the light of the difficulties that some members had, he proposed that consideration of the administrative and financial implications of the two draft resolutions should be deferred until the following meeting.

*It was so decided.*

#### ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION D SUBMITTED BY THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/10411 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 54\* (A/C.5/1720)

38. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee wished him to propose that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution D submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/10411, para. 15), an additional appropriation of \$7,000 would be required under section 2A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977.

39. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that, should draft resolution D of the Special Political Committee be adopted, an additional appropriation of \$7,000 would be required under section 2A of the programme budget for 1976-1977.

*It was so decided.*

\* United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East:

- (a) Report of the Commissioner-General;
- (b) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
- (c) Report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine;
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General.

## AGENDA ITEM 96

**Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 and medium-term plan for the period 1976-1979 (continued) (for the documentation, see the 1759th meeting)**

### *First reading of individual sections of the programme budget (continued)*

**SECTION 11. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (concluded) (A/10006, A/10008 AND CORR.2, A/C.5/1669, A/C.5/1671)**

40. Mr. BACHE (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the cuts recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report (A/10008 and Corr.2) and believed that further cuts of approximately \$900,000 could be made without impairing the efficiency of the UNCTAD secretariat, by simply not establishing certain requested permanent posts. A greater effort should be made to identify the activities of UNCTAD that should be given priority so that existing resources could be used more efficiently. The request of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD for 37 additional posts—26 new posts and the conversion to permanent posts of 11 posts formerly financed from temporary assistance credits—appeared to run contrary to the promise of better utilization of personnel he had made when requesting the establishment of an Economic Policy Evaluation and Co-ordination Unit within his own office. His delegation opposed the conversion of the 11 temporary posts; such conversions were not good management practice because they permitted augmentation of payrolls by a "backdoor" approach. It also opposed the upgrading of the post of Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD to the level of Assistant Secretary-General because all positions at the level of Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General should be reserved for officials directing departments and offices; in any event, such a reclassification might encourage wholesale reclassification within the United Nations system. His delegation considered the 4 new posts requested for the programme "Transfer of technology" to be unjustified; there should be no expansion of activity in that area until the role of UNCTAD had been defined through the discussions currently under way. It agreed with the statement of the Group B countries at the fourteenth session of the Trade and Development Board regarding both the lack of congruency between the programme budget and existing intergovernmental resolutions and decisions on transfer of technology, and the need for co-ordination of UNCTAD activities with those of other international organizations dealing with science and technology. Furthermore, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD should refrain from anticipating the decisions of intergovernmental bodies and confine his work to carrying out specific mandates from them.

41. His delegation urged UNCTAD to cut down on its documentation: it was projecting an increase from 48 to 76 million pages in 1977 whereas other United Nations bodies were showing a steady decrease.

42. His delegation would thus support an appropriation of no more than \$39,256,000 for the biennium.

43. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his country had always supported the development of UNCTAD activities as a way of promoting equitable international trade relations among all countries.

44. One of the major items in the estimates for UNCTAD concerned the fourth session of the Conference which, it was estimated, would cost \$1.1 million more than the third session. His delegation was surprised that the Advisory Committee merely trusted that it would be possible to make significant savings in the estimate currently indicated, rather than making radical proposals to cut the inordinately large estimate for the session.

45. His delegation considered that the reduction of \$604,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 11, including the International Trade Centre, was too small. On the basis of its position of principle with regard to the costs attributed to inflation, to the expansion of the staff of the UNCTAD secretariat and to other unjustified expenditure, his delegation could not support the estimates. Accordingly, if a separate vote was taken on the Secretary-General's request for appropriations for those purposes, his delegation would vote against it, and it would abstain in the vote on the amount requested for section 11 as a whole.

46. Mr. RHODIUS (Netherlands) noted that one of the reasons cited for the increase of approximately 81 per cent in the cost of the fourth session of the Conference in comparison with the third session was the longer duration of the session. However, he understood that the fourth session was to last from 3 to 28 May 1976, whereas the third session had run from 13 April to 21 May 1972. He asked for an explanation of the apparent discrepancy.

47. Mr. FELLAH (Algeria) said that UNCTAD was the economic tribune of the developing countries and had contributed to the new dialogue between the North and the South. Accordingly, his delegation approved the Advisory Committee's recommendations and would support no further reduction in the appropriation. In particular, it was opposed to any reduction in the programme "Transfer of technology".

48. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium) asked whether the estimate for UNCTAD "submitted by the Secretary-General" had been carefully scrutinized by the United Nations Budget Division.

49. Mr. LAVAU (Director of the Budget Division) said that all sections of the proposed programme budget had been subjected to the normal scrutiny.

50. With regard to the point made by the representative of the United States concerning the 4 new posts for the programme "Transfer of technology," he pointed out that at least 3 of the posts had been specifically requested under the terms of decision 117 (XIV) of the Trade and Development Board,<sup>1</sup> dated 13 September 1974, and that a statement of the financial implications of that text had been submitted to the Board.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Trade and Development Board, First part of the Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 1.*

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 15, annex VII.*

51. The proceedings of the fourth session of the Conference would in fact cover seven weeks; that period included some two or three weeks' work by the Trade and Development Board at a special session and two days' preparatory work by the Board immediately prior to the Conference.

52. With regard to the proposed upgrading of the post of Chief Administration Officer in the Division of Administration and Common Services of the International Trade Centre from P-5 to D-1, which the Advisory Committee had not supported, he stressed that, in the view of the GATT Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration, the responsibilities of the post justified the upgrading and that it would not entail any changes in the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee; apart from that point, the GATT Committee accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

53. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that since the upgrading of the post of Chief Administration Officer from P-5 to D-1 would not lead to reinstatement of the reductions in the Centre's budget recommended by the Advisory Committee, it had decided not to interpose any objection to the proposal by the GATT Committee.

54. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that as UNCTAD was the most important United Nations body in the field of trade and development it should be given the resources it needed to gear its work to the objectives of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. His delegation therefore endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendations. He understood that the International Trade Centre was financed partly by the United Nations and partly by other organizations; he asked which other organizations were involved and what proportion of the financing each contributed.

55. Mr. PIRSON (Belgium) said that his delegation's criticism of section 11 applied only to the estimates and in no way to the programmes concerned. The estimates had not been drawn up with the necessary rigour and many items of expenditure appeared unjustified. For example, the justification given for the regrading of the post of Co-ordinating Officer requested in the proposed programme budget for the International Trade Centre (see A/C.5/1669, p. 19) was meaningless if the retiring Director (Promotion) was to be replaced.

56. Mr. LAVAU (Director of the Budget Division) said that he could not comment on the justification for the request mentioned by the last speaker, but he stressed that the Secretary-General was not the author of the document in question and was merely submitting it for the Committee's consideration.

57. Replying to the representative of the Philippines, he said that the financing of the Centre was shared equally by the United Nations and GATT; no other organizations were involved.

58. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee under section 11 (see 1761st meeting, para. 88).

*An appropriation in the amount of \$40,147,400 under section 11 for the biennium 1976-1977 was approved in first reading by 66 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.*

59. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the reports of the Secretary-General concerning the International Trade Centre (A/C.5/1669 and A/C.5/1671).

*It was so decided.*

## AGENDA ITEMS 96 AND 100

**Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 and medium-term plan for the period 1976-1979 (continued)** (for the documentation, see the 1759th meeting)

*First reading of individual sections of the programme budget (continued)*

### SECTION 23. CONFERENCE AND LIBRARY SERVICES (continued)\* (A/10006, A/10008 AND CORR.2)

**Pattern of conferences (continued)\*** (A/10003, chap. VI, sect. G; A/10032 and Corr.1, A/10348 and Corr.1, A/10397, A/10454, A/C.5/1711):

**(a) Report of the Committee on Conferences (continued)\*** (A/10003, chap. VI, sect. G; A/10032 and Corr.1, A/10397, A/C.5/1711)

60. The CHAIRMAN said that at the 1760th meeting the Committee had adjourned consideration of the proposal submitted by the delegation of Austria concerning recommendation 6 in paragraph 113 of the report of the Committee on Conferences (A/10032 and Corr.1). The amendment read as follows:

"6. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly that beginning in 1976 the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should continue to meet in New York and Geneva, and the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee should meet at Headquarters in New York."

He invited the Director of the Budget Division to make a statement on the financial implications of the proposed amendment.

61. Mr. LAVAU (Director of the Budget Division) said that the proposal to continue alternating the sessions of the Legal Sub-Committee between New York and Geneva would have no financial consequences for 1976-1977 because it would not change the current schedule for the 1976 session at Geneva and the 1977 session in New York. However, it would have implications for subsequent biennia. After 1977, the additional costs of a session of the

Legal Sub-Committee at Geneva every other year would be about \$60,000 at the current rate of exchange, comprising \$45,000 for temporary conference staff and \$15,000 for the travel costs of the substantive staff from New York.

62. Mrs. DERRE (France) noted that the proposal would involve no financial implications for the forthcoming biennium, which was the one under discussion. She pointed out that the Committee was not discussing the budget or the pattern of conferences for 1978-1979 and that in any event the observations by the Director of the Budget Division referred to a hypothetical situation. Her delegation therefore maintained its support of the Austrian proposal.

63. Mr. STUART (United Kingdom) noted that if the Legal Sub-Committee held its 1976 session in New York, \$60,000 would be saved. When his delegation asked for the financial implications of decisions on arrangements regarding meetings, its purpose was to ascertain whether money could be saved. That was why the Committee on Conferences had been set up. If it could not achieve savings, its usefulness was open to question. In view of the answer given by the Director of the Budget Division, his delegation would vote in favour of having the Legal Sub-Committee meet in New York in 1976 and 1977.

64. Mrs. DERRE (France) asked why the Legal Sub-Committee wished to continue to meet alternately in New York and Geneva.

65. Mr. LAVAU (Director of the Budget Division) said that even if the proposal by Austria was rejected, the application of recommendation 6 of the Committee on Conferences would not produce the savings envisaged by the United Kingdom representative. Since the proposal by the Committee on Conferences that the Legal Sub-Committee should meet in New York would not take effect until 1977, it would affect neither the 1976 session, which would be held at Geneva, nor the 1976-1977 budget.

66. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the amendment proposed by Austria to recommendation 6 in paragraph 113 of the report of the Committee on Conferences.

*The amendment was rejected by 15 votes to 13, with 35 abstentions.*

67. After a procedural discussion on the validity of the vote and the presence of a quorum in which Mr. SETHI (India), Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan), Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mrs. DERRE (France), Mr. FELLAH (Algeria) and the CHAIRMAN participated, Mr. STOFORPOULOS (Greece) proposed that the meeting should be adjourned.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.*

\* Resumed from the 1760th meeting.