

1744th meeting

Thursday, 20 November 1975, at 3.25 p.m.

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

A/C.5/SR.1744

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF GENERALISSIMO FRANCISCO FRANCO BAHAMONDE, HEAD OF THE SPANISH STATE

On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Generalissimo Franco, Head of the Spanish State.

1. Mr. MARTÍN (Spain) said that, on behalf of his Government and the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations, he wished to express appreciation for the condolences received.

AGENDA ITEM 105

United Nations salary system:

- (a) Report of the International Civil Service Commission (A/10008/Add.9, A/10030, A/C.5/1700, A/C.5/1703);
(b) Report of the Secretary-General

2. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee (A/10008/Add.9), referred to the recommendation made by the International Civil Service Commission concerning possible amendments to the application of the post-adjustment system. The cost of implementing the recommendation had been estimated by the Commission at about \$2.7 million a year. A recalculation had showed a total estimated cost in 1976 of \$2.5 million, but the actual cost of the Commission's recommendations in 1976-1977 would depend on changes in the biennium in the post-adjustment classification of duty stations.

3. The Advisory Committee had no objection to the Commission's recommendation being implemented as of 1 January 1976, if it was accepted by the General Assembly.

4. Document A/C.5/1700 should be entitled "Revised estimates of the International Civil Service Commission"; that designation would be more consistent with the nature and form of the proposals it contained.

5. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977, the Advisory Committee had taken note¹ of the Secretary-General's provisional submission for the Commission pending the submission of revised estimates to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session. A comparison between the revised estimates for the Commission for the biennium 1976-1977 and the initial proposals

revealed an additional requirement of \$286,000. The Commission's revised established post requirements for the next biennium called for an increase of 13 posts. The Advisory Committee had agreed to recommend acceptance of the Commission's requests, after examining them in the light of its programme of work. Bearing in mind, however, that the Commission would be taking over certain functions currently performed by the staff of agencies in the common system, the Advisory Committee invited the Secretary-General to consider a possible redeployment of existing posts from agencies in the common system, and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session on the steps taken to give effect to such redeployment.

6. The Advisory Committee had therefore accepted the revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General for the work programme of the Commission. Out of the additional requirement of \$286,000, \$95,000 would be chargeable to the United Nations regular budget; the rest would be covered by income from contributions of agencies in accordance with agreed formulae.

7. Mr. QUIJANO (Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission) said that the Commission had begun its activities on 1 April 1975 and, with the co-operation of the Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. L. Adu, and the Executive Secretary, Mr. Roger Barnes, the offices had been installed and a small secretariat had started to function, thereby enabling the first session to be held in May and the second in August.

8. The Commission was gradually assuming the functions entrusted to it in its statute. Among other things, it had convened an advisory group of statistical experts in connexion with a comparative analysis of the cost of living in the various cities in which the headquarters of international organizations were located, and had been carrying out since July monthly revisions of post-adjustment classifications and of schedules of daily subsistence allowance rates throughout the United Nations system. It had held meetings specifically to discuss the personnel questions raised by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, had prepared numerous technical studies as a basis for the general review of salaries called for by the General Assembly in paragraph 3 of resolution 3357 (XXIX), and had adopted its rules of procedure and a programme of work for the next two years. Other activities had included the introduction of a system of full consultation with administrations and staff representatives and a continuous effort to make more widely known the functions of the Commission and the concept of an international civil service. Perhaps the most difficult task of all was to find a satisfactory niche for the Commission within the over-all machinery that dealt with the co-ordination and administration of the United Nations system, with the least possible disruption of the activities of bodies already in existence.

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 8 and corrigendum, para. 22.6.

9. It would be recalled that in 1945 the Preparatory Commission for the United Nations, which had met in London, had recommended² the establishment of an international civil service commission to advise the United Nations and the specialized agencies on personnel matters. The General Assembly had adopted that recommendation in resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946. In practice, however, the resolution had not been strictly applied and instead the International Civil Service Advisory Board, which had without a doubt played an important role in the elaboration of principles and standards in personnel matters, had been established in 1948.

10. In 1974, by its resolution 3357 (XXIX), the General Assembly had finally established the Commission envisaged 30 years earlier. In the interim the international civil service had assumed proportions that no one could have foreseen at the birth of the United Nations. The small secretariat inherited from the League of Nations, the several hundred or so staff members in the specialized agencies existing at the time, and the handful of persons supplied by a number of founding Governments to set in motion the Preparatory Commission in London had swelled to the present over-all total of some 50,000 staff members in the ranks of the organizations making up the United Nations family.

11. That growth, which had not always been systematic or planned, had given rise to a host of questions and problems connected with the international civil service. Finally the General Assembly had concluded that it was necessary to establish new independent machinery—namely, the Commission—which would advise it and take on certain executive functions in specific areas relating to the conditions of service of international civil servants. The membership of the Commission—a happy mixture of administrative expertise and political representation—gave reason to hope that the Commission would attain its objectives and could thus help to lessen, or at least rationalize, the tremendous impact of personnel expenses on the budget of international organizations and also would see to it that the personnel were the most highly qualified and the best able to serve the organizations and, through them, their member States.

12. The General Assembly had intended that the Commission, in order to carry out its work properly, should maintain close ties with the administrations and staff members, and provisions to that effect had been incorporated in the statute of the Commission. That was why formal contacts had been established at the outset with, on the one hand, the executive heads of the organizations, through the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and their representatives on the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ), and, on the other, the staff representatives assembled in the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (FICSA). That tripartite relationship was essential to the successful work of the Commission, and its rules of procedure stipulated that staff representatives should participate in all its meetings and working groups, not as a concession, but as a full right.

² *Report of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations (PC/20)*, chap. VIII, sect. 1, para. 19.

13. Document A/10030 provided a summary of the work done by the Commission in its first few months. In that connexion, it was essential to point out that, in accordance with the terms of reference established by the General Assembly in resolution 3357 (XXIX), paragraph 3 of which provided that the Commission should review, as a matter of priority, the United Nations salary system, the Commission had converted itself, at least for the early years, into another salary review committee. That had led to difficulties since the review was absorbing almost all the Commission's limited time and staff resources and, currently, it was being prevented from dealing with other extremely important matters, such as job classification standards, recruitment procedures, standardization of staff rules and training programmes. The importance of the priority review should be recognized in view of the valid reasons—even more valid currently than in 1970—which had led the Assembly to establish, by resolution 2743 (XXV), the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System; it had met in 1971 and 1972, but no decisions had yet been taken on its report.³ The comprehensive report prepared by that Committee—three bulky volumes totalling more than 700 pages—contained numerous recommendations and proposals, few of which, however, had been considered. Instead, it had been decided to adopt a series of provisional measures and modest adjustments in order to provide temporary solutions to the more urgent problems. The prospects of a steady growth in activities arising from various General Assembly decisions, particularly the agreements reached at the seventh special session, made it more indispensable than ever to have, without further delay, a consolidated salary system that would meet the need both to recruit highly qualified personnel and to compute the costs so that they could be included as fairly accurate elements in the short-term and medium-term plans currently being envisaged by the organizations in order to give shape to the new demands of Governments.

14. In order to discharge the priority task assigned to it, the Commission, after organizing its programme of work and adopting its rules of procedure at its first session, had devoted the second session almost exclusively to reviewing the salary system, and intended to continue the study at its third and fourth sessions, to be held in March and June 1976, with a view to submitting as comprehensive a report as possible to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session.

15. As would be seen from chapter V of its report, the Commission had not wanted to reach any conclusion yet in respect of the salary review other than to express the opinion, as outlined in paragraph 29, that, inevitably, the salary system should be comparable to that of the highest-paying national civil service. The Commission had thus left all its options open until it reached the decisive phase of the review at its meetings in 1976. It should be said, however, that the Commission had covered a great deal of ground, and he firmly hoped that it could formulate conclusions on the main elements of the salary system by June 1976.

³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 28 and corrigendum.*

16. At its second session, the Commission had also dealt with two matters which had been submitted by ACC for urgent consideration, in accordance with rule 6 of the Commission's rules of procedure.⁴ The first related to the revision of the system of post adjustments in order to take into account the losses incurred by staff members without dependants assigned to duty stations with a high post adjustment; the second concerned the increase in the education grant. The Commission had carefully considered those questions and recommended that, as a provisional measure, at duty stations classified, for the purposes of application of the post adjustment system, in class 8 and above, staff members without dependants would receive an additional payment equal to the difference between the current rate of two thirds of what staff members with dependants received and 85 per cent of that rate. With reference to the revision of the amount of the education grant, the Commission had felt that the urgency of an increase had not been fully demonstrated and that, moreover, the number of cases in which the grant proved insufficient was approximately 11 per cent of the total. For those reasons, it had preferred to consider the question on the basis of new data as part of the general study of the salary system, when the complete scale of remunerations could be determined more precisely.

17. In the decision on the revision of the post adjustment for staff members without dependants, on the other hand, the main consideration was that the remuneration of those staff members had decreased, a state of affairs that had created an imbalance as compared with staff members with dependants. In some cases the difference amounted to 40 per cent. The Commission had agreed to solve that problem through an emergency measure, deferring consideration of other formulae—which could be described as “permanent”—proposed by UNESCO and GATT, which would be taken up in the context of the general study of the salary system. It had been considered that the thesis of ACC that the additional payment for staff members without dependants should amount to 95 per cent of the amount received by staff members with dependants left very little margin for variation, and could prejudice the long-term solution which might be finally decided upon. The 85 per cent formula had therefore been recommended to the Assembly, on the understanding that it would represent a strictly temporary supplement to the remuneration of staff members without dependants, effective until the General Assembly adopted a more permanent general solution. Since it represented a provisional measure, its application had been recommended from 1 January 1976. He requested the Fifth Committee to give particular attention in due course to that proposal, since it remedied a situation which could only be described as unfair.

18. The Commission had also undertaken the preparation of proposals for the 1976-1977 budget, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 21 of its statute. Those proposals were extremely cautious, and took into account the budgetary implications of the Commission's gradually assuming its other functions.

19. It had also been deemed necessary to establish, and the authorization of the General Assembly for that had

been sought, a subsidiary body composed of statisticians and presided over, *ex officio*, by a member of the Commission, which could perform tasks of the kind which up to 1974 had been carried out by the Expert Committee on Post Adjustments. The eminently technical nature of many of the problems arising from the complex system of post adjustments and their effects on the remuneration received by staff members had led to the conclusion that such advice was essential to the satisfactory performance of the Commission's functions. Paragraph 18 of the report defined the scope of that request. It should be added that the operating cost of that body, composed of experts who received no remuneration other than the payment of their travelling expenses, was practically the equivalent of that already included in the budget when the Expert Committee was acting as adviser to ACC. When those functions had been transferred to the Commission, the corresponding appropriation for ACC was also transferred to the Commission's budget. There would be an additional amount of approximately \$10,000 requested for the biennium 1976-1977, because the Commission had considered it necessary to meet three times during the period, instead of meeting once annually as in the past, since, with the changing pattern of responsibilities which had led to the establishment of the Commission, various problems of classification of duty stations had arisen and required prompt solutions.

20. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had already had the opportunity to consider the Commission's budget estimates for 1976-1977, on the basis of a document prepared by the Secretariat, in which some adjustments had been introduced (A/C.5/1700). In its related report (A/10008/Add.9), the Advisory Committee accepted those estimates which were designed to enable the International Civil Service Commission gradually, rationally and organically, to assume the functions entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

21. In its report the Advisory Committee also commented on the possible modifications in the application of the system of post adjustments for staff members without dependants, and indicated that it had no objections to the date of 1 January 1976 proposed for the application of that measure.

22. Finally, it should be noted that the Commission was a co-ordinating body. Although it had been established with its headquarters at the United Nations and as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, its functions extended, with the resulting *pro rata* expenditure, to all the specialized agencies and other international organizations participating in the common system and accepting the statute of the Commission. To date the following organizations had formalized that arrangement through decisions of their Executive Councils, Assemblies or General Conferences: FAO, the ILO, UPU, IMCO, WMO, ITU, UNESCO, WHO, WIPO. It was hoped that the statute would soon be accepted by ICAO, IAEA and GATT, whose authorities had indicated that the appropriate formalities were being completed. It should be added that the United Nations and the 12 organizations included in the common system participated in the meetings of the Commission, and that there was close co-operation among them on matters in their respective fields of interest.

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.I.18.

23. The fact that the Commission was a co-ordinating body must be reflected in its procedures and activities, and especially in the programme of meetings. From the outset, a large number of specialized agencies had expressed great interest in the Commission's holding meetings at their headquarters so that broader contacts and a better knowledge of staff problems would be made possible. The Commission had received various firm invitations to that end, and after consulting with the Committee on Conferences, which had viewed the matter favourably, had decided that, in the years in which more than one session was held, it would be appropriate for one of them to take place at the headquarters of one of the participating organizations, so that the members could familiarize themselves directly with the conditions existing at other duty stations and establish contacts with the legislative bodies, executive heads and staff of those organizations. It was understood that the holding of sessions outside New York would be dependent upon invitations being received from the organizations concerned, which would normally provide the necessary conference services.

24. In view of the fact that the current programme of activities called for at least two annual sessions in the first stage of the Commission's existence, a pattern of meetings had been established, according to which the first session in every year would be held at Headquarters in New York and the second at the headquarters of another organization. Invitations had been received from the ILO, where the second session had been held in August 1975, from FAO for 1976 and from IAEA for 1977.

25. In order to obtain the best information and establish contacts with other duty stations where thousands of international civil servants were working, as in the case of field stations, a series of visits to offices in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and, somewhat later, Latin America, had been organized in conjunction with UNDP. From the outset, the Commission had recognized the significance of the role to be played by field service personnel in the area of international co-operation, and the special problems which could occur at many of those duty stations. The Commission had therefore granted the Administrator of UNDP, under whose jurisdiction most of those officials worked, a status equivalent to that of executive head during his participation in the Commission's meetings, and the right to submit such items and proposals as he might deem appropriate. That rule was set forth in the rules of procedure.

26. It was a fitting moment to express the Commission's gratitude for the support received, from the outset, from all the organizations and from staff representatives. The Commission was anxious to win the complete confidence of the Governments, administrations and staff, because its task required the goodwill of all parties concerned. Although it had some executive authority, the Commission was basically an advisory agency, and its success greatly depended on the acceptance of its recommendations. It was difficult to satisfy all parties, because even if there were common ideals and objectives, there could at times be conflicting interests, as had already been demonstrated by the reactions to some of the Commission's early decisions. Its objective, however, was to direct all its efforts towards strengthening the organizations by establishing adequate

conditions of employment to attract the best possible staff, at a cost that was reasonable and equitable both for the Member States and for the staff.

27. It was obvious that questions concerning international civil servants would become of more and more importance. His impression, on taking up his duties, had been that a certain stage of consolidation had been reached on the level of human resources required by United Nations agencies when the aforementioned figure of almost 50,000 persons had been attained. However, Member States had been very definite in their recent requests for more services, more meetings, more studies and even more organizations. Logically, that renewal of confidence in the usefulness of United Nations organizations should be encouraging, but the inevitable result would be a larger increase in the size of the international civil service.

28. In the preceding few weeks, many delegations, and the Secretary-General, had repeatedly referred to the fresh impulse received by the United Nations and the challenge facing it. There would be important implications for the future role of the Commission and its possible contribution.

29. The tempo of the Commission's work should be intensified within the limits imposed by its composition, with only two of its members serving full-time. The Commission would have to complete the review of the salary system as soon as possible in order to take up other matters, all of great importance, such as the rationalization of recruitment methods, and the strengthening and standardization of common personnel standards, methods and arrangements for all the organizations. It was also hoped that the Commission would manage to bring an element of objectivity to bear on the inevitable and continual increases in salaries, allowances and other personnel expenses, thus facilitating relations between the administrations and policy-making bodies. In that regard, it was to be hoped that the Commission would fill a role in those matters within its competence equivalent to that of the Advisory Committee in the area of administrative and budgetary questions.

30. If it succeeded in realizing those and other goals and duly assuming the functions entrusted to it by its statute, the Commission would have justified the motives which led to its establishment. It was to be hoped that such positive results would soon be visible. To make that possible, however, the Commission's own efforts must be bolstered by the support, confidence and respect of Governments, administrations and staff.

AGENDA ITEM 96

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 and medium-term plan for the period 1976-1979 (continued) (for the previous documentation, see the 1740th meeting; A/C.5/1708, A/C.5/1709, A/C.5/L.1254)

The effect of continuing currency instability on the budgets of the organizations in the United Nations system (concluded) (A/10008/Add.4, A/C.5/1692)

31. Mr. HUITRON CABALLERO (Mexico) said that his delegation was worried by recent events in the Fifth

Committee. Although the Committee had been advocating the need for maximum savings in implementing the United Nations budget, it was setting a bad example through long, useless and distasteful discussions.

32. His delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1253, agreeing with the representative of India that it was unwise to conduct a vote at that time.

33. Those representatives who pointed to one or more causes of currency instability showed a lack of understanding. The fact that needed recognition was that the developed countries were in a better position to cope with the current financial crisis than the third-world countries. It was not possible for the developing countries to view passively the losses incurred by United Nations organizations as a result of inflation and currency instability. The Fifth Committee had a responsibility to seek adequate solutions to the current problems, which were simply making the rich richer and the poor poorer. It was not the developing countries which created inflation; their exports and imports were governed by the prices on the world market, which were not fixed by third-world countries. Mexico would support just and equitable procedures aimed at meeting the costs of the United Nations regular budget in cases not envisaged by the San Francisco Conference in 1945.

34. Mr. ZDROJOWY (Poland) stated that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1253 for reasons of solidarity with Cuba and because of the intrinsic merits of the document. He thanked Cuba for its efforts to cope with the problem of the effect of continuing currency instability and for its initiative in submitting a coherent proposal. That Cuba's proposal was constructive had not been denied by those representatives who had opposed the operative part of the draft resolution.

35. His vote reflected the position of the Polish Government that those countries which were not responsible for inflation should not have to bear the losses occasioned thereby. The discussions on the Cuban proposal had indicated a broad interest among Member States in finding a satisfactory solution to problems which had originated in the Western world, but which were affecting all nations. Although the Cuban proposal had been disposed of, the problem still remained and awaited a just and appropriate solution.

36. Mr. MARTIN (Spain) said that, despite his delegation's great esteem for Cuba, it had voted against the draft resolution because of its questionable, and perhaps erroneous, economic foundation and its possible implications for the United Nations.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION G SUBMITTED BY THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/10342 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 53* (A/10008/ADD.8, A/C.5/1706 AND CORR.1)

37. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1706 and

Corr.1) indicating that adoption of draft resolution G submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/10342, para. 27) would give rise to an additional requirement of \$283,000 under the proposed programme budget for 1976-1977. The report on that subject of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions appeared in document A/10008/Add.8.

38. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) corrected some errors in paragraphs 2 and 9 of the Advisory Committee's report and pointed out that the table in paragraph 2 showed the total costs relating to the implementation of the programme against *apartheid* whether borne by the regular budget or by extra-budgetary sources.

39. The Secretary-General estimated that, if the draft resolution of the Special Political Committee was adopted, the programme of work for 1976 of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* would require an amount of \$165,000 under section 3A—of which \$94,000 had already been included in the Secretary-General's initial programme budget proposals. The Advisory Committee indicated in paragraph 4 that \$92,000 of that amount was related to the cost of holding an international seminar in 1976. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the detailed arrangements for the seminar had not yet been finalized and that the Secretary-General had not therefore been able to forecast accurately the total cost. In the light of the information given to it, the Advisory Committee had recommended that the Secretary-General should endeavour to achieve economies and that the estimate should be reduced by \$17,000.

40. In connexion with the establishment of the proposed Centre against *Apartheid* the Secretary-General had requested the creation of 5 additional posts, together with the upgrading of 1 post from D-1 to D-2. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the existing Section for African Questions would form the nucleus of the proposed Centre and that the 16 posts currently assigned to the Section would be transferred to the new Centre. The additional resources required for the extra posts and the proposed reclassification amounted to \$177,000 under section 3D. In paragraph 8 of its report, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's request for the P-5 post, the P-2 post and 1 General Service post; however, on the basis of additional information given to it, the Advisory Committee had remained unconvinced of the need for the P-4 post and the second General Service post. Details of the organizational structure of the proposed Centre were given in the annex to the Advisory Committee's report, together with information on the deployment of the new posts requested and the structure of the current Section for African Questions.

41. The Secretary-General's request for the upgrading of 1 post from D-1 to D-2 had placed the Advisory Committee in a dilemma. In paragraphs 61 and 62 of its first report (A/10008 and Corr.2) the Advisory Committee had made certain observations with regard to the reclassification of posts. In paragraph 62 it recommended that the Secretary-General should submit no further request for the reclassification of posts until the International Civil Service Commission had had an opportunity to look into the matter.

* Policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa:
(a) Report of the Special Committee against *Apartheid*;
(b) Report of the Secretary-General.

However, the Secretary-General had indicated in the Fifth Committee that, while taking note of the Advisory Committee's recommendation, he reserved the right to submit further requests for the reclassification of posts where such action was warranted in order to meet the requirements of the Organization. The Advisory Committee felt that that reservation should be viewed in the light of the general endorsement of paragraph 61 of its first report by the Fifth Committee, even though the Fifth Committee had not raised any explicit objections to the reservation made by the Secretary-General.

42. In summary, the Advisory Committee recommended to the Fifth Committee that it might wish to inform the General Assembly that, should the draft resolution be adopted, additional requirements would arise in the biennium 1976-1977 in the amount of \$232,000, offset by estimated income of \$26,000 under income section 1.

43. Mr. BOUAYAD-AGHA (Algeria) recalled that, when the Committee had discussed the section of the budget relating to UNEP, a number of delegations, including his own, had expressed concern because the Advisory Committee had not recommended any reductions. No environment could be worse than that in which *apartheid* flourished; yet the Advisory Committee, perhaps against the wish of some of its members, had recommended substantial reductions in two areas pertaining to *apartheid* which the continent of Africa considered of paramount importance. The recommendations in question—the one affecting the budget for the seminar and the other the staffing of the proposed Centre against *Apartheid*—were not of purely budgetary significance; they would have far-reaching political repercussions. While the Secretary-General had indicated that the estimates of the cost of the seminar were provisional, there could be no doubt that any curtailment of his proposals would substantially reduce the number of participants in the seminar.

44. His delegation therefore proposed that the Committee should vote on the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General.

45. Mrs. CISSE (Guinea) said that the Special Committee against *Apartheid* had recommended that the United Nations should intensify its activities against *apartheid*. Finding itself at bay after the liberation of former Portuguese Territories, the racist régime of South Africa had stepped up its campaign of repression against black South Africans and other opponents of *apartheid*. It was threatening neighbouring independent African States, had doubled its military budget and had launched a propaganda offensive to hoodwink world opinion. With the co-operation of certain Governments which disregarded United Nations resolutions, it was doing everything possible to emerge from its isolation.

46. The Special Political Committee had endorsed the proposals of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and had recommended that the General Assembly should solemnly proclaim that the United Nations had a special responsibility towards the oppressed people of southern Africa. It had reaffirmed its commitment to the struggle against *apartheid*.

47. The programme of work of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* had certain financial implications. The Special Committee proposed to continue sending missions to Governments in order to encourage implementation of United Nations resolutions; to send missions to trade unions and non-governmental organizations; to organize an international seminar to publicize United Nations activities against *apartheid* and promote the international campaign; and to strengthen the Unit on *Apartheid* and renaming it the "Centre against *Apartheid*". A strengthened Centre against *Apartheid* would be an indispensable complement to the Special Committee against *Apartheid*, which would then have all the resources and services required to publicize United Nations action against *apartheid*.

48. The Unit on *Apartheid* required additional staff and needed to be headed by a high-level officer. Although the statement of financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General concerned only one of the draft resolutions recommended by the Special Political Committee, they should be considered in conjunction with all draft resolutions on *apartheid*, which called for more vigorous action from the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and the Secretariat. The reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee were arbitrary and unjustified. The Special Committee had always been prudent in its expenditures and should not be prevented from performing its important functions by arbitrary budgetary limitations. The refusal of the Advisory Committee to support the proposal to reclassify the post of Director was not entirely justified, since the only reason given for the refusal was that it was consistent with the Advisory Committee's policies. She was therefore requesting the Fifth Committee to approve the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General, unless he could give a firm assurance that, despite the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee, the Special Committee would receive all the assistance required.

49. Mr. ZIMBA (Zambia) said that his country had always unreservedly condemned *apartheid* as the greatest evil ever to be visited upon Africa, and as a crime against humanity. His Government had vehemently attacked the "bantustan" policy in all international forums. It had been one of the first Governments to advocate the release of political prisoners in South Africa and to support the right of South Africans to engage in normal political activities.

50. His delegation therefore endorsed the recommendations of the Special Political Committee, which were designed to enable Africa to rid itself of an obnoxious system. It trusted that the Advisory Committee would review its recommended reductions in the Secretary-General's proposals in the light of the pressing needs of the Special Committee against *Apartheid*. Accordingly, he supported the proposal made by the delegation of Algeria.

51. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) said that his country, too, viewed with grave concern the oppressive policies of the Government of South Africa. The Philippines had been a founding member of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and its strong stand against that political system was reflected in the meeting records of the Organization. In keeping with that position, his delegation advocated the strengthening of the Special Committee against *Apartheid*.

and its secretariat. While it appreciated the efforts of the Advisory Committee to achieve economies, it was extremely concerned that in the present case the recommendations would adversely affect the important work against *apartheid*. He suggested that the Chairman of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* should consult with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee with a view to ensuring that the Special Committee's programme of work would not be hampered and that its restructured secretariat would be strengthened in the way envisaged by the Special Political Committee. He endorsed the proposal by the delegation of Algeria that the Committee should vote on the Secretary-General's proposals.

52. Mr. RUPIA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the question before the Committee was of the greatest importance to Africa. Despite numerous debates and resolutions condemning *apartheid*, the South African régime had intensified its ruthless repression of Africans. That was why the Special Political Committee had made recommendations aimed at intensifying the work programme of the Special Committee against *Apartheid*. In furtherance of an intensified world-wide campaign to combat *apartheid*, the Special Committee planned to hold a seminar in 1976 which would discuss, among other things, the role played by transnational corporations in buttressing *apartheid*. His delegation could not understand why the Advisory Committee wished to reduce the impact of that seminar by recommending a specific reduction in the Secretary-General's proposals rather than simply requesting the Secretary-General to exercise economies wherever possible. It was equally puzzling that the Advisory Committee had failed to see the need for an adequate number of staff for the new Centre against *Apartheid* in view of its recognition that the secretariat would be assuming added responsibilities. His delegation therefore supported the proposal made by the delegation of Algeria.

53. Mr. ADAM (Somalia) expressed concern that the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in its report might adversely affect the work of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* at the very time when action against *apartheid* should be intensified. In paragraph 16 of the statement he had submitted, the Secretary-General had requested a P-4 post for a senior research officer to research the implementation of United Nations resolutions on *apartheid*, the relations of various States with South Africa and the involvement of foreign economic interests in South Africa, and to act as the secretary of the Special Committee's Sub-Committee on the Implementation of United Nations Resolutions and Collaboration with South Africa. The Advisory Committee had not recommended approval of that post, and he questioned its reasons. Failure to establish the post would hamper the extremely important work of the Special Committee to provide full information about Governments and economic interests collaborating with South Africa and its efforts to discourage support for the criminal régime. He also expressed concern at the recommended reductions for missions and the international seminar scheduled for 1976. While it was important to economize on unnecessary expenditure, savings should not be made at the expense of the Special Committee which was endeavouring to ensure implementation of General Assembly resolutions and should be strengthened.

54. In conclusion, he called for approval of the Secretary-General's estimate of the financial implications of the draft resolution of the Special Political Committee.

55. Mrs. DE ZEA (Colombia), observing that the United Nations had a special responsibility for the victims of *apartheid* and should do all it could to eradicate that evil, expressed support for the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee and said it was essential to provide adequate resources for the Secretariat to act effectively. As the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee might lessen the effectiveness of United Nations activities in that field, she supported the Algerian proposal and said that her delegation would vote in favour of the Secretary-General's estimate of the financial implications.

56. Mr. SUNDRAM (Malaysia) said that the Advisory Committee had not provided an adequate explanation for what appeared to be almost arbitrary and sizable reductions in the Secretary-General's estimate of the financial implications of the draft resolution of the Special Political Committee. There was a danger that the work of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* might be hampered by budgetary restrictions. One of the most worth-while activities of the Special Committee was to send missions to various countries and conferences to secure a wider consensus on international action against *apartheid* and respect for United Nations resolutions. Yet the Advisory Committee had recommended a 25 per cent reduction in the request for an additional appropriation under section 3A, bringing it to \$54,000, with the result that the number of missions would have to be cut, or the benefits from the missions would be reduced.

57. Referring to the requested P-4 post, approval of which had not been recommended by the Advisory Committee, he said that his delegation, one of whose members was Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the Implementation of United Nations Resolutions and Collaboration with South Africa, was well aware that the workload of the Secretary of that Sub-Committee was too heavy for one person. The Special Committee had requested the new post because of the workload of the Sub-Committee and also because it needed thorough research and analysis of General Assembly resolutions to persuade Governments to take effective action against *apartheid*. He supported the Special Committee's request that the post of Director of the Centre against *Apartheid* should be reclassified in keeping with the importance of the subject matter and the mandate of the Special Committee.

58. While he supported reasonable economies in the budget, he felt it was essential not to hamper anti-*apartheid* activities during the current crucial period. Accordingly, he appealed to the Committee to support the Secretary-General's estimate of the financial implications of the draft resolution, or at least to request the Advisory Committee to review its recommendations.

59. Mr. EKONG (Nigeria), stressing the vital importance of the struggle against *apartheid*, expressed concern over the unfounded recommendations by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of its report. The estimated cost of the seminar, for example, was not

arbitrary but was based on the actual cost of a recent seminar. He considered the amount that the Secretary-General had estimated the minimum required; any reduction would jeopardize work in that field. He would discourage any measures that put the Secretary-General at a disadvantage or deprived him of flexibility of action. As the Advisory Committee had already requested the Secretary-General to make any possible savings in that field, he relied on the good faith of the Secretary-General to do so. Accordingly, he supported the Algerian proposal.

60. Mr. BENKIRANE (Morocco) said that, while his delegation usually supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations and appreciated its serious consideration of matters brought before it, he could not accept its recommendation with respect to the financial implications of the draft resolution of the Special Political Committee. As he considered the amount estimated by the Secretary-General essential to maintain the anti-*apartheid* struggle, he intended to vote in favour of the Secretary-General's estimates.

61. Mr. NSUBUGA (Uganda) recalled that the United Nations had been born out of events similar to what was currently happening in South Africa. World public opinion, which included public opinion in all, not just some, countries, including in particular African, Scandinavian and socialist countries, supported the anti-*apartheid* campaign. He trusted that all Member States would also be able to take that approach.

62. Mr. SCHMIDT (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, while he appreciated the views of those members of the Committee who supported the Secretary-General's estimate of the financial implications of the draft resolution, he had every faith in the Advisory Committee which undoubtedly had applied the same standards in its review of the item under consideration as it did on all other questions before it.

63. Mr. WANG Lien-sheng (China) said that his delegation consistently supported increased international action against *apartheid* in South Africa and had accordingly voted in favour of the draft resolution in the Special Political Committee. He drew attention, however, to a reference in paragraph 9 of document A/C.5/1706 and Corr.1 to the World Peace Conference; on the basis of his delegation's position of principle on that body, he had reservations as to any relationship between the Special Committee and the World Peace Council.

64. Mr. VERRET (Haiti), observing that his country had always supported the struggle of oppressed peoples everywhere, particularly in Africa because of its close ties with that continent, called on the Committee to vote in favour of the Secretary-General's estimate of the financial implications of the draft resolution of the Special Political Committee.

65. Mr. SETHI (India), noting that India had always supported the anti-*apartheid* struggle, supported the Secretary-General's estimate of the financial implications of the draft resolution.

66. Mr. MARPAUNG (Indonesia) said that, while he usually accepted the Advisory Committee's recom-

mendations, he disagreed with its recommendation under consideration. The only criterion applied by the Advisory Committee in considering matters before it was economy. The Advisory Committee had certainly not said that *apartheid* was not an important matter; it was simply concerned as to whether the United Nations could pay the additional amount requested. He felt that the Advisory Committee had been too pessimistic in that respect, as the amount involved was only \$34,000 to be distributed among all Member States. He supported the Secretary-General's estimate.

67. Mr. STOFOROPOULOS (Greece) called on the Committee to accept the estimate of the Secretary-General on the financial implications of the draft resolution as the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee could only impair the effectiveness of much-needed measures called for in the draft resolution.

68. Mr. GHAFOURZAI (Afghanistan) said that, while he had always supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations in the past, he could not accept its recommendation on the matter under consideration since adequate moral and material support was essential to support the anti-*apartheid* struggle of the oppressed peoples of South Africa. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's estimate of the financial implications of the draft resolution.

69. Mrs. BASTOS SANDIFER (Portugal) said that her delegation supported maximum resources for the anti-*apartheid* struggle and called for approval of the Secretary-General's estimate of the financial implications of the draft resolution.

70. Mr. PONCE (Peru) said that in view of the importance his delegation attached to the role of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* in its struggle against racial discrimination, he would vote in favour of the Secretary-General's estimate of the financial implications of the draft resolution.

71. Mr. BOYE (Senegal) supported the Algerian proposal that the Committee should vote in favour of the Secretary-General's estimate.

72. Mr. AL-NAKKASH (Iraq), noting that the Advisory Committee had recommended reductions in the Secretary-General's estimate for technical reasons, nevertheless supported the Algerian proposal that the Committee should vote for the Secretary-General's estimate.

73. Mr. BASSAM (United Arab Emirates), commending the work of the Advisory Committee in general, said that he could not accept its recommendation for reductions in the Secretary-General's estimate as such reductions would adversely affect the anti-*apartheid* struggle. He hoped the Committee would approve the Secretary-General's estimates.

74. Mr. DJEKILAMBERT (Chad), expressing support for the anti-*apartheid* struggle, endorsed the Algerian proposal that the Committee should approve the Secretary-General's estimate.

75. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on the Algerian proposal to accept the Secretary-General's estimate of the financial implications of the draft resolution of the Special Political Committee, as summarized in paragraph 18 of document A/C.5/1706 and Corr.1, whereby an additional appropriation of \$283,000 would be required.

At the request of the representative of Zambia, the vote was taken by roll-call.

Botswana, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Burma, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados.

Against: France, Germany (Federal Republic of), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, German

Democratic Republic, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Australia, Austria, Belgium.

The Algerian proposal was adopted by 66 votes to 4, with 22 abstentions.

76. The CHAIRMAN said that he would request the Rapporteur to report directly to the General Assembly that, should it adopt the draft resolution of the Special Political Committee, an additional appropriation in the amount of \$283,000 would be required for the biennium 1976-1977, of which \$177,000 under section 3D, \$71,000 under section 3A and \$35,000 under section 21.

77. Mr. NAUDY (France), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had voted on purely technical grounds. His delegation was not willing to depart from the normal procedure whereby the Committee voted on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee first. From the point of view of administrative and budgetary considerations, the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee were justified. The Advisory Committee had made its recommendations in good faith for the Fifth Committee to accept or reject.

78. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee defer its consideration of the question until a later meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.

1745th meeting

Friday, 21 November 1975, at 10.55 a.m.

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

A/C.5/SR.1745

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION G SUBMITTED BY THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/10342 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 53* (*concluded*) (A/10008/ADD.8, A/C.5/1706 AND CORR.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN, recalling that the Committee, at the previous meeting, had voted on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution of the Special Political Committee concerning the Special Committee against *Apartheid*, invited delegations wishing to do so to explain their votes.

2. Mr. LELLI (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, said that the position of those delegations with regard to the South African Government's policies of *apartheid* was well known: they had given, and would continue to give, the struggle against *apartheid* all possible support in voting, in financial contributions, in assistance to victims of *apartheid* and in other actions. That position had found expression in the Special Political Committee when the draft resolution in question had been put to the vote. The Nordic delegations did not always follow the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and sometimes took a more generous line. In the case under discussion, they could have accepted some revision by the Fifth Committee of the estimates recommended by the Advisory Committee, if the proposal had

* Policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa:
(a) Report of the Special Committee against *Apartheid*;
(b) Report of the Secretary-General.