

1721st meeting

Friday, 24 October 1975, at 10.50 a.m.

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

A/C.5/SR.1721

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 1718th meeting)

Exchange of properties between the Etat de Genève and the United Nations (concluded) (A/10008/Add.1, A/C.5/1674)

1. Mr. COÏDAN (Assistant Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva) said that he understood the concerns expressed by the representative of Algeria at the previous meeting, particularly as it was extremely difficult to determine the value of lands to be exchanged. For that reason, the Etat de Genève and the United Nations Office had asked the opinion of independent experts and had accepted their conclusions, which they had judged to be reasonable. Of course, the valuation of the "Penthes" property was greater than that of the "Superficia" and "Campagne Rigot" properties, but those properties were subject to a building prohibition and only bus shelters and telephone boxes could be built on them. The valuation per square metre of the "Penthes" property was not greater than that of the "Sous-Carlton" property, although the latter was not in such a favourable location and was divided by Avenue Appia; finally, the valuation per square metre of the "Penthes" property was not very different from that of "Petits-Crépins", which was further away from the road and much less usable. In addition to those considerations, there was the fact that the lands to be ceded to the Etat de Genève would be used entirely for the improvement of the road network used by the United Nations, WHO and the ILO.

2. Mr. BOUAYAD-AGHA (Algeria) said that he would definitely vote in favour of the exchange of property in question but noted that the negotiations had lasted for 25 years. Although traffic problems around the Palais de Nations were an argument for the exchange in 1975, that had not been the case 25 years previously, and he therefore wondered what had led the two parties to envisage the exchange at that time. It should also be noted that the land which the United Nations would receive would be partly subject to a building prohibition. It would no doubt be made into a park which would embellish the town of Geneva, and which would be an amenity for which the Swiss authorities would undoubtedly be grateful to the United Nations. He did not wish to cast aspersions on the officials who had taken part in the negotiations, but he considered that it would have been preferable if, for example, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions or the representative of the Secretary-General had been included in the negotiations.

3. Mr. COÏDAN (Assistant Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva) explained that the idea of the

exchange had originated 25 years previously in the decision of the Swiss authorities to organize an international competition for the development of the Place des Nations and its surroundings. It had been necessary to envisage the situation where one of the proposed developments would encroach on the property of the United Nations. Since the competition had not taken place, the project had not been pursued. It was only with the construction of the WHO building that the question had arisen again and that negotiations had resumed. The officials who had taken part in the negotiations with the Etat de Genève had been careful to reserve the position of the General Assembly, which would make the final decision.

4. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/10008/Add.1) and approve the exchange of properties between the Etat de Genève and the United Nations on the terms set out in the exchange of letters between the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Etat de Genève described in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/1674). If he heard no objection he would take it that the Committee approved that proposal.

It was so decided.

Standards of accommodation for official travel of United Nations staff by air (A/C.5/1675)

5. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had taken note of the Secretary-General's report on the standards of accommodation for official travel of United Nations staff by air (A/C.5/1675) and urged the Secretary-General to continue to limit expenditure as much as possible when applying the existing rules in that respect.

6. Mr. BOUAYAD-AGHA (Algeria) said that in general he was satisfied with the way in which the Secretary-General was dealing with the question, and announced that his delegation nevertheless intended to submit a draft resolution on the subject to the Committee. The Organization could make some savings on travel expenditure: it was perhaps unnecessary for some officials to travel first class when the flight, between two European cities, for example, lasted only 2 or 3 hours, while other officials had to make journeys of 12 or 14 hours in the economy class.

7. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, pending the submission of the Algerian draft resolution, the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the standards of accommodation for official travel of United Nations staff by air (A/C.5/1675).

It was so decided.

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

SECTION 5. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (A/10006, A/10008 AND CORR.2)

Section 5B. Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations

8. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Secretary-General, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 (A/10006), had submitted an estimate of \$1,189,000 under section 5B for the Information Centre on Transnational Corporations. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its report (A/10008 and Corr.2), had not recommended any specific reduction in that amount, but the reduction in representation allowances which it had proposed in paragraphs 63 to 65 of its report would require a reduction of \$400 from the initial estimates. The total amount recommended by the Advisory Committee under section 5B for the biennium 1976-1977 was therefore \$1,188,600.

9. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), referring to paragraphs 5.40 to 5.42 of the Advisory Committee's report, recalled that under section 5B, the Secretary-General had submitted a provisional estimate, pending further decisions by the Economic and Social Council on the work programme of the Centre in 1976-1977, and that the detailed programme of work would be formulated by the Commission on Transnational Corporations in early 1976 and would be submitted to the Council at its sixtieth session. The Advisory Committee had also been informed that, as of the time it examined section 5B, no appointments had been made to the secretariat of the Centre. The representative of the Secretary-General could perhaps clarify the current situation, but, during its consideration of section 5B, the Advisory Committee had decided that it would review the vacancy situation at its current session. Consequently, the Advisory Committee had recommended approval on a provisional basis of the estimates submitted by the Secretary-General under section 5B.

10. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation supported in principle the establishment of an Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations, in accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. His delegation welcomed that new approach and hoped that the Centre would help to ensure the necessary control of the activities of transnational corporations so as to reduce to a minimum the damage they caused to the economies of developing countries and so as to confirm the sovereignty of those countries over their natural resources. His delegation approved the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee for the Centre, but considered that the amount had been over-estimated, particularly in respect of the sum designed to cover the effects of inflation; his delegation's position with regard to such expenses was well known. It was to be hoped that in choosing the staff of the Centre, the Secretariat and officials at the Centre would strictly respect the principle of

geographical distribution and would take into account the interests of under-represented countries, including the Soviet Union.

11. Miss GARCÍA DONOSO (Ecuador) said that her country attached great importance to the work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations and supported every measure aimed at strengthening the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations. Since the Committee was considering section 5B in first reading, her delegation supported the viewpoint of the Advisory Committee, but wished to receive additional information regarding the view of the Economic and Social Council on the report of the Commission on its first session,¹ since that report contained plans to assign a number of activities to the Centre which would entail appropriations. She joined the representative of the Soviet Union in urging that the Centre's staff should be recruited in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

12. Mr. RHODIUS (Netherlands) said that his delegation had clearly demonstrated in the Economic and Social Council that it took a positive attitude towards the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations. As pointed out by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 5.40 of its report, the figures provided by the Secretary-General were provisional. He wished to know therefore what the Centre's situation with regard to extra-budgetary resources was. His Government had pledged in the Economic and Social Council a contribution of \$350,000 for 1975 and \$150,000 for 1976 and would like to know whether other voluntary contributions had been pledged or paid.

13. The CHAIRMAN noted that there were no other names inscribed on the list of speakers on section 5B. He proposed therefore that the Committee should revert to that section at a later date.

Section 5A. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

14. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1976-1977 (A/10006), the Secretary-General was submitting an initial estimate of \$42,695,000 under section 5A to finance programmes in the economic and social fields carried out under the direction of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The programmes involved were enumerated in the table appearing in paragraph 5.2 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/10008 and Corr.2). Section 5A contained only part of the total estimates for programmes carried out by the United Nations in the economic and social fields. Other credits were requested under other sections of the proposed programme budget, for example, section 4, which dealt with policy-making organs for economic and social activities, and section 5B, which dealt with the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations. As could be seen in the table appearing in paragraph 5.6 of the Advisory Committee's report, if both extra-budgetary resources and apportioned costs budgeted elsewhere in the programme

¹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12 and corrigendum.

budget were taken into account, the total resources requested under sections 4, 5A and 5B for the implementation of the related programmes amounted to more than \$127,500,000. In addition, resources needed for operational activities under those sections were estimated to be approximately \$154,600,000. Sections 4, 5A and 5B therefore represented one of the most important elements of expenditure both in terms of the programmes to be carried out and the magnitude of the resources involved.

15. The estimates under section 5A were \$7,400,000 more than the adjusted revised appropriation for 1974-1975, or an increase of 20.8 per cent. Real growth was estimated by the Secretary-General at 2.4 per cent at 1975 rates. The increase in the proposed estimates varied from one programme to another, as indicated in the table in paragraph 5.2 of the Advisory Committee's report; the reasons for differences in the rates of increase were outlined in paragraph 5.3.

16. In its examination of the estimates under section 5A, the Advisory Committee had much more information than it had had for its consideration of the other sections of the budget. While progress had been made in producing information of a better quality than in 1973, the Committee believed that there was still room for further improvement, and chapter I of its report contained comments and observations which were of particular relevance to section 5A. The approach adopted by the Advisory Committee in its examination of that section was indicated in paragraph 5.7 of its report. In arriving at its conclusions regarding the estimates for each programme, the Committee had borne in mind resources and staff currently available and the justification given for creating new posts. Of the 37 new posts requested by the Secretary-General, 23 of which were for Professional staff and 14 for the General Service category, the Advisory Committee had recommended acceptance of a total of 20 new posts—14 Professional and 6 General Service—as indicated in paragraph 5.38 of its report. The impact of the Committee's recommendation varied in each of the programmes concerned and he was ready to provide additional clarification on that matter. Finally, the Advisory Committee had indicated in paragraph 5.5 of its report that the request for general temporary assistance consultants, *ad hoc* expert groups, and over-time and night differential showed a marked degree of restraint. Nevertheless, the additional information supplied to the Committee indicated that there was room for improvement in the formulation of the tasks to be assigned to consultants and *ad hoc* expert groups.

17. Mr. MASCARENHAS (Brazil) said that, although all States, including Brazil, found their assessed contributions to the United Nations budget to be a burden, the majority of delegations considered the expenses involved to be worth while since it helped in joint efforts to maintain peace and promote the well-being of mankind. He respected the opinion of the Advisory Committee regarding section 5A. The Advisory Committee was seeking cuts it considered desirable in the estimates of the Secretary-General. He wondered, however, whether it was really necessary to make relatively minor cuts in an economic and social budget of \$42 million. As a result of decisions taken by the General Assembly at its seventh special session and by other organs, the tasks of the Department of Economic and

Social Affairs would be assuming greater significance than in previous years and thus the increase in the Department's budget was perfectly justifiable. His delegation strongly recommended that the Fifth Committee should approve the entire amount proposed by the Secretary-General under section 5A as proof of its goodwill and sincerity.

18. Mr. STOTTEMYER (United States of America) said that, because it recognized the increasingly important role of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs both within the United Nations itself and the United Nations system as a whole, his delegation considered it essential that further improvements should be made in its management of programme activities, work methods and especially its utilization of human resources in order to be able to carry out more effectively its many and varied responsibilities in the future. In that connexion, attention should be given to the conclusions and recommendations made by the Administrative Management Service on that subject.² If a concerted effort was made in that direction, the Department should be able to carry out its essential programmes and give priority to the tasks entrusted to it with a lower level of resources and fewer personnel than those requested for 1976-1977. It should be remembered that the budget estimates for the Department had been prepared several months earlier and therefore did not include activities following from the seventh special session of the General Assembly. By improving management the Department should be better able to contribute to the attainment of the objectives set by the seventh special session.

19. The appropriation of some \$42.7 million requested by the Secretary-General for the Department under the regular budget represented an increase of almost \$7.4 million over the amount available in 1974-1975. Furthermore, those funds were significantly supplemented by more than \$20 million from extra-budgetary resources and approximately \$155 million for operational activities, or a total of nearly \$218 million in direct resources. The regular budget increase included almost \$1 million in programme growth, largely for the creation of new posts. His delegation wished to know what efforts had been made by the Secretary-General before requesting additional staff—a total of 37 posts—to reduce or eliminate marginal activities in order to redeploy existing resources to meet emerging priority activities.

20. The Advisory Committee had indicated several situations which indicated the need for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to review its ongoing activities and its current work methods. The Advisory Committee feared, for example, that there was a possibility of duplication between the work programmes of the Office of Science and Technology and UNESCO or between the Department and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. The Advisory Committee did not find satisfactory the procedure followed by the Office of Science and Technology whereby it first requested additional resources and then drew up its work programme on the basis of its request. The Advisory Committee also believed that the Secretary-General failed to explain adequately the method used to calculate cost estimates for printing, which would have a substantial effect on the total

² Document A/C.5/1543 and Corr.1 and 2, of 13 November 1973.

appropriations for the Department. Finally, the Advisory Committee had difficulty in relating some of the requests for new posts to programmes for which they were requested. His delegation wished to receive clarifications with regard to all those questions.

21. He noted that, according to the table in paragraph 5.2 of the Advisory Committee's report, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, including the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch, would receive just over 12 per cent of the appropriation requested under section 5A. The Secretary-General's estimates for that Centre implied a slight decrease in real terms of its activities and the Advisory Committee had accepted the full appropriation requested. While his delegation recognized the need for belt-tightening for the Department as a whole, it agreed with the Advisory Committee that the requested appropriation should be approved. The decisions taken during International Women's Year would place increased responsibilities on the Centre, particularly on the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch. His delegation regarded the work of the Centre—and especially that of the Branch—to be of high priority. It could already be foreseen that when the United Nations took steps to implement the World Plan of Action adopted in July 1975 at the World Conference of the International Women's Year held in Mexico City, the Branch would require additional resources. To the extent possible, those resources should be obtained through the redeployment of existing resources within the Department but, if such redeployment was found to be inadequate, his delegation would give favourable consideration to any reasonable requests for additional appropriations which might subsequently be put forward by the Secretary-General.

22. Reverting to the total appropriation for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, he said that present resources could and should be used more effectively and economically. While agreeing with the decrease of \$647,000 recommended by the Advisory Committee, he believed that the Department could absorb an additional reduction of about \$1,000,000, or roughly one third of the increase in its expenditure attributable to inflation. In other words, his delegation would favour a total reduction of \$1,800,000 in the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General.

23. Mr. LELLKI (Sweden) said that he had noted with concern that there was no provision for growth in the programme "Social development and humanitarian affairs", which even showed a slight decline, in real terms, as compared with 1974-1975. Among the many important goals to be achieved within the framework of that programme, he wished particularly to call attention to medium-term objectives 9 to 12 (A/10006, para. 5.34, items (i) to (l)) relating to activities aimed at promoting equality between men and women in law and in fact. The proposed programme budget and the Advisory Committee's report had of course been prepared before the World Conference of the International Women's Year had been held in Mexico. As the proposals and recommendations of that Conference were to be reviewed by the Third Committee under agenda item 75, it was still too early to anticipate what revised estimates would be submitted to the Fifth Committee in order to follow up the decisions of the Mexico Conference. At the current stage, in the first

reading of section 5A, he would stress only the necessity of giving the Department of Economic and Social Affairs sufficient resources to carry out new and important programmes initiated as a result of the recommendations of the Conference. His delegation would be prepared to approve additional appropriations for that purpose, if necessary.

24. Mr. NSUBUGA (Uganda) said he would find it difficult to express an opinion on the total appropriation under section 5A when it was not yet known what implications the decisions adopted at the seventh special session of the General Assembly would have on the amounts.

25. Mr. LAVAU (Director of the Budget Division) said, with reference to the observations made by the United States representative, that it was not surprising if management of a department as large as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, whose activities were both numerous and varied, was not always perfect. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee had been kind enough to say that progress had been made in the drawing up and presentation of section 5A. In real terms, the Department's projected growth was fairly modest, since it was 2.4 per cent, which meant that it was less than the growth rate of the budget as a whole. The United States representative believed that the Department could do more with fewer staff. It was for the Committee to form a judgement on that issue.

26. The United States representative had said that the programme of the Office for Science and Technology might duplicate that of UNESCO. However, the former programme had been very closely studied by CPC and had subsequently been considerably recast. It was to be hoped that some, at least, of its defects had been remedied.

27. It was true that the Advisory Committee had said that it had experienced difficulties in linking some of the requests for new posts to the activities involved. The data given to CPC and the Advisory Committee had been the most detailed possible—in terms of man/months—but some points must inevitably remain unexplained because it was impossible to attain complete mathematical precision in that connexion. It was not always easy when drawing up a biennial budget to predict three years in advance the detailed subject-matter of a given study. It could merely be foreseen that movements of staff would be required in that connexion without being able to be more specific. The Department had nevertheless been very moderate in its requests for travel appropriations, to give an example.

28. He did not see how there was a risk of overlapping between the activities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and those of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. Note would, however, be taken of the fears expressed by the United States representative on that score.

29. That representative had expressed regret that social development activities, particularly programmes to promote the status of women, had not been sufficiently expanded. It must be borne in mind that some of the activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

had been transferred to the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies. There had been no diminution of the former's activities.

30. The new Under-Secretary-General who now headed the Department of Economic and Social Affairs would perhaps have different views with regard to the allocation of resources within the Department from those which had been adopted when the programme budget had been drawn up.

31. Mr. PALAMARCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) regarded the increase in appropriations requested by the Secretary-General under section 5A as quite stupendous in relation to the 1974-1975 budget. The increase of 20.8 per cent, which was to cover the effects of inflation and the cost of 23 new Professional and 14 new General Service posts, was all the more striking because the Committee should undoubtedly be prepared for the submission of revised estimates. All items must therefore be very carefully examined in an attempt to reach more reasonable results.

32. In paragraph 5.5 of its report, the Advisory Committee had accurately stated that the only objects of expenditure which showed incremental growth were salaries for established posts and the related common staff costs. Very often such increases were attributable to unfortunate duplication: the Advisory Committee itself had said, in paragraph 5.28 of its report, that there were dangers of duplication between the programme of work of the Office for Science and Technology and that of UNESCO. The Advisory Committee was therefore justified in drawing attention to the need periodically to review the work of the Department so as to determine whether some activities were still relevant. His delegation had already pointed out, as had CPC itself, that many elements of the population programme had completely ceased to be topical and should be simply deleted. However, the Secretary-General was requesting large appropriations for those redundant elements.

33. The requests for new posts were also inexplicable since, during the 1976-1977 financial year, 54 Professional posts should become available to the Department, a fact which was not mentioned anywhere in the proposed programme budget. Some delegations had therefore been right to say that the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee was inadequate, and one delegation had already realistically proposed an additional reduction of about \$1 million, which his delegation would be prepared to support. In any case, in view of the need for the Department to make better use of the resources available to it and those which would be freed when certain programmes were terminated and useless projects deleted, his delegation would vote against the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General under section 5A. Some brake must be put on the costs of running the Department, which was becoming overlarge; attempts must also be made to cover increased expenditure attributable to inflation and monetary instability by economies, rethinking of priorities and reallocation of resources.

34. Mrs. DERRÉ (France) expressed the hope that in view of the importance of section 5A by reason both of its

content and of the size of the appropriation requested, the Committee would do as it had done when it had considered section 22, namely that representatives would first make general observations on the section as a whole and would then proceed to examine it programme by programme.

35. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) supported the suggestion by the French representative. He inquired whether the report of CPC, which would be helpful for the discussion of section 5A, had been issued.

36. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should follow the procedure adopted for the consideration of section 22 and first discuss section 5A as a whole and then consider the various programmes.

It was so decided.

37. Mr. LAVAU (Director of the Budget Division) pointed out to the representative of the Philippines that it was at its fifteenth session in March 1975 that CPC had reported on the proposed programme budget as it related to activities in the economic and social fields; the report in question had been issued as document E/5632.³

38. Replying to the representative of the Soviet Union, he explained that the revised estimate for section 5A showed an increase of \$136,500 (see A/C.5/1682).

39. The representative of the Soviet Union had said that the programme "Population" provided for many irrelevant activities. However, after the World Population Conference which had been held at Bucharest in August 1974, the Population Commission had considered all the various projects, and had given its endorsement to the programme. CPC had also considered it thoroughly and had expressed a favourable opinion of it.

AGENDA ITEM 103

Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary organs of the General Assembly (continued):*
(c) Board of Auditors (A/10153, A/C.5/1695)

40. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to proceed with the election necessary to fill the vacancy which would arise on the Board of Auditors upon the expiration, on 30 June 1976, of the term of office of the Auditor-General of Pakistan, as indicated in the note by the Secretary-General (A/10153). The Governments of Bangladesh, Ghana and Sri Lanka had each nominated their Auditors-General for the vacant post (see A/C.5/1695) and had indicated their willingness, if the need arose, to make the necessary staff available to the candidate elected. The candidates therefore met the necessary requirements.

41. The election would be held by secret ballot and in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. In the case of the Board of Auditors, the Committee would be electing a Member State, not an individual.

* Resumed from the 1716th meeting.

³ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Barragán Mata (Mexico) and Mrs. Abele-Emich (Austria) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	102
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	102
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	100
Required majority:	51

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Ghana	55
Bangladesh	31
Sri Lanka	14

The Auditor-General of Ghana having obtained the required majority, the Committee recommended his appointment as a member of the Board of Auditors for a three-year term, beginning on 1 July 1976.

42. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Rapporteur should be requested to report directly to the General Assembly on the matter.

It was so decided.

43. Mr. KHAN (Bangladesh) and Mr. VANDERGERT (Sri Lanka) congratulated Ghana and assured it that its Auditor-General could count on the co-operation of their Governments. They thanked the delegations which had voted for their respective candidates.

44. Mr. KIVANÇ (Turkey), Mr. SCHMIDT (Federal Republic of Germany) and Mrs. DE ZEA (Colombia) also congratulated Ghana and paid a tribute to the manner in which the Auditor-General of Pakistan had discharged his important responsibilities.

45. Mr. AGYEMAN (Ghana) thanked all the delegations that had participated in the vote and, in particular, those that had supported his country's candidature.

46. Mr. KEMAL (Pakistan) said that he deeply appreciated the kind remarks made by a number of delegations concerning the Auditor-General of Pakistan.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK (A/C.5/L.1225/Rev.1)

47. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Committee was making good progress in its work and said that he relied on the co-operation of representatives to ensure that the Committee did not lose the momentum it had gained. He was, however, disappointed that the meetings were starting late and that there was not always a quorum when the meeting began. Moreover, although members of the Committee were notified well ahead of time which sections of the proposed programme budget were to be taken up, there were never enough speakers on the list for each meeting, with the result that consideration of certain sections had to be postponed.

48. The Committee was also encountering some difficulties with regard to documentation. For example, it would have been preferable to take up sections 5A and 5B of the proposed programme budget at the same time as the estimates revised as a result of decisions taken by the Economic and Social Council (A/C.5/1682). However, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had received the final explanations concerning those estimates only the previous day, and could not issue its report until the week beginning on 27 October.

49. He proposed that during that week the Committee should consider the question of the honoraria payable to members of the International Law Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the question of the use of experts and consultants in the United Nations; that it should conclude its consideration of sections 5A, 5B and 22 of the proposed programme budget and begin consideration of section 21, and take up agenda items 99 (Joint Inspection Unit) and 101 (Publications and documentation of the United Nations) as well as sections 23 to 26 of the proposed programme budget. The elections for the Committee on Contributions could be held towards the end of the week. Lastly, the Committee could consider item 107 (Financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force).

50. It would have been desirable to take up items 100 (Pattern of conferences) and 101 and section 23 (Conference and Library Services) of the proposed programme budget together, but the Advisory Committee had not yet completed its report on item 101.

51. Mr. SCHMIDT (Federal Republic of Germany) noted that the Secretary-General's authority to enter into commitments for UNEF and UNDOF expired on 31 October 1975. It was therefore a matter of certainty, and not hypothesis, as the Chairman had implied, that the Committee would have to take a decision before 31 October on the question of the financing of both Forces. In that connexion, the fact that the Secretary-General's estimates had not yet been published and that the Advisory Committee had therefore not yet been able to consider them gave cause for concern.

52. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Secretary-General's report on the question would be ready at the beginning of the week beginning on 27 October.

53. Mr. DIPP GOMEZ (Dominican Republic) said that he was deeply concerned about the question of punctuality. Every effort should be made to avoid a situation in which the Committee would be required to hold night, Saturday or Sunday meetings. Since most members of the Committee were frequently detained in the morning at the offices of their missions, he suggested that the Committee should hold afternoon and morning meetings on alternate days.

54. Mr. AL-NAKKASH (Iraq) considered the programme of work proposed by the Chairman to be highly ambitious, but was confident that the Committee would do its best to carry it out.

55. He shared the apprehensions expressed by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany and wondered whether it might be possible to make the documentation relating to the various questions to be considered by the Committee available earlier.

56. The CHAIRMAN observed that all the documents relating to the questions which he had proposed for

consideration during the following week had been issued or would be issued by the beginning of the week. He drew attention, in that connexion, to the note concerning the work of the Committee circulated as document A/C.5/L.1225/Rev.1.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

1722nd meeting

Monday, 27 October 1975, at 3.15 p.m.

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

A/C.5/SR.1722

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

1. The CHAIRMAN outlined the programme of work for the week, including the first reading of sections 5, 21, 22, 24 and 26, and item 107, relating to the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force and of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

2. Mr. OUEDRAOGO (Upper Volta) asked when the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on item 107 would be available.

3. The CHAIRMAN replied that the documentation on item 107 would not be available in time for full consideration by the Fifth Committee; consequently, the Committee might have to take an interim decision extending the authority of the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for one month for UNEF and UNDOF expenditure pending completion and consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee.

4. Mr. DEBATIN (Assistant Secretary-General, Controller) said that the documents on UNEF and UNDOF were being finalized. The only pending question was an amount of about \$10 million to cover the rental of ships and aircraft.

5. Mr. OUEDRAOGO (Upper Volta), recalling the protracted debate held the previous year in connexion with the financing of UNEF and UNDOF, suggested that a draft text should be provided to the Committee on the extension for one month of the Secretary-General's authority to enter into commitments. The Committee would thus be able to restrict itself to consideration of that draft proposal.

6. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines), supported by Mr. SCHMIDT (Federal Republic of Germany), suggested that the Chairman should prepare a draft resolution extending the Secretary-General's authority to enter into commitments for UNEF and UNDOF expenditure.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee requested him to prepare,

in consultation with the representatives of the Secretary-General, a draft resolution providing for the interim extension of the Secretary-General's authority to enter into commitments for UNEF and UNDOF expenditure.

It was so decided.

8. Replying to a question put by Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines), the CHAIRMAN said that the draft decisions submitted by members of the Committee under agenda item 96 which did not require immediate action would be taken up after the first reading of individual sections of the programme budget.

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 1718th meeting; A/10279, A/C.5/1688/Corr.1, A/C.5/L.1236)

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

SECTION 5. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (continued) (A/10006, A/10008 AND CORR.2)

9. The CHAIRMAN invited members of the Committee to comment on section 5 as a whole before proceeding to consider each subsection individually.

10. Mr. GARRIDO (Philippines) observed that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs would play a major role in following up the decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions. His delegation considered the work on development planning, projections and policies indispensable to the Department's role in economic development. He welcomed the clarity of the medium-term objectives in the programme budget, which had been redrafted to conform with the recommendation made by CPC in paragraph 31 of its report on its