

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TENTH SESSION
Official Records



**FIFTH COMMITTEE, 527th
MEETING**

*Thursday, 8 December 1955,
at 3.20 p.m.*

New York

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Chairman: Mr. Hans ENGEN (Norway).

AGENDA ITEM 38

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1956
(A/2904 and Add.1, A/2921) (*continued*)**

First reading (continued)

SECTION 15. COMMON STAFF COSTS (*concluded*)

Grant to the International School (A/C.5/645) (concluded)

1. Mr. CUTTS (Australia), referring to the statement made by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the International School at the 526th meeting, asked the Secretary-General's representative whether he was right in assuming that the Secretary-General had made his request (A/C.5/645) for an appropriation of \$7,400 in the belief that that was the appropriate amount to be charged to the United Nations budget to give the International School the support it needed.
2. Mr. BLANCO (Cuba) said that after carefully studying the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations International School (A/C.5/645), he wondered why the Secretary-General had not requested a larger appropriation than \$7,400.
3. He could not support the proposal the Chilean representative had made at the 526th meeting that the appropriation requested should be increased to \$20,000 and suggested that the latter sum should be reduced by from \$8,000 to \$10,000. If the Chilean representative was unable to accept his suggestion, he would vote in favour of the appropriation requested by the Secretary-General.
4. Mr. ALLENDE (Chile) accepted the Cuban representative's suggestion and proposed that an appropriation of \$12,000 should be recommended for the International School.
5. Mr. TURNER (Controller), replying to the Australian representative, said that in the light of the discussions which had taken place in the Fifth Committee on previous occasions the Secretary-General had not felt that he was in a position to make any other proposal than that which the Fifth Committee had seen fit to endorse for a number of years, namely that assistance should be granted to the International School in the amount of \$7,400. The Secretary-General wished, however, to make it clear that he had every sympathy with the International School and with the objectives for

which it had been established and agreed with the view expressed at the 526th meeting that, while the United Nations as such had no financial responsibility towards the International School, every practical encouragement which the General Assembly saw fit to give would be most desirable and welcome.

6. The Secretary-General would therefore be satisfied if the Fifth Committee could concur at least in the modest proposal he had made. He would be even more satisfied if the Committee could see fit to grant a larger sum than he had requested in view of the critical situation confronting the school in the immediate future.

7. The advantage of the Cuban representative's proposal was that it would avoid the implication that the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly were voting a general subsidy to the International School. That had not been in the Secretary-General's mind when he made his request. The sum of \$12,000 represented approximately the rent of the premises now occupied by the School. He recalled that the Fifth Committee had previously laid down the principle that any financial assistance granted as a temporary measure to the School should be related directly to such direct charges as rent of the School premises rather than constitute a general subsidy to the total budget of the School.

8. He felt he could say that the Secretary-General fully shared the hope expressed by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees that arrangements might be made in the course of the coming twelve months which would avoid any need to approach the Fifth Committee at future sessions in connexion with the School.

9. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Chilean representative's proposal, as amended by the Cuban representative, that a sum of \$4,600 should be added to the appropriation of \$7,400 originally requested by the Secretary-General for the International School.

The proposal was approved by 22 votes to 11, with 6 abstentions.

The proposal that a grant of \$12,000 should be given to the International School was approved on first reading by 29 votes to 10.

10. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Advisory Committee had recommended an appropriation of \$3,138,100 for section 15 (A/2921, para. 150). The decisions which the Committee had taken with regard to the various items under that section would increase that amount to \$3,219,600.

The Committee unanimously approved on first reading an appropriation of \$3,219,600 for section 15.

MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR 1956
(A/3076, A/C.5/654)

11. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the Advisory Committee's thirty-fourth report (A/3076) and to the Secretary-General's report on miscellaneous supplementary estimates (A/C.5/654).

12. With regard to section 18, European Office of the United Nations, the Advisory Committee concurred in the Secretary-General's proposal that the sum of \$65,900, included in the 1955 appropriations for renewing the air-conditioning plant at the Palais des Nations should be reappropriated for 1956, on condition that the work was completed in 1956.

13. Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) referred to the USSR representative's statement in the general discussion on the budget estimates (500th meeting) and said that the Committee should scrutinize carefully any request for supplementary appropriations. In view of the urgent need for funds for technical assistance to the under-developed countries, the request now being considered by the Committee should not be given priority. The Palais des Nations was in excellent condition and the climate of Geneva was equable. His delegation did not, therefore, consider that funds should be appropriated for renewing the air-conditioning plant.

14. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an additional budgetary provision under section 18, chapter VIII, in the amount of \$65,900 (A/3076, para. 3).

The recommendation was approved on first reading by 32 votes to 4, with 1 abstention.

15. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 4 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/3076), in which it agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal that an accumulated surplus on the income account of the Library Endowment Fund should be used exceptionally to increase the amount provided in paragraph 4 of the draft appropriation resolution for 1956 (A/2921, chapter I, appendix I) from \$13,000 to \$17,000. In paragraph 5 of its report, the Advisory Committee recommended an amended text for paragraph 4 of the draft appropriation resolution.

The text of paragraph 4 of the draft appropriation for 1956, as amended by the Advisory Committee, was adopted by 36 votes to 4.

16. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Advisory Committee had approved the addition of \$40,000 to the 1956 budget estimates for section 21, Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, for the installation of an air-conditioning plant in the premises occupied by the Commission's secretariat at Bangkok (A/3076, para. 8).

The Advisory Committee's recommendation for an additional budgetary provision under section 21, chapter IV, in the amount of \$40,000 was approved on first reading by 35 votes to 4.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (A/C.5/L.375) (concluded)

17. The CHAIRMAN recalled the discussion which had taken place at the previous meeting; the draft resolution now submitted by eight delegations in document A/C.5/L.375 was intended to give effect to the suggestion made then that the question of increasing the professional staff in the Middle East unit of the Bureau of Economic Affairs should be referred to the Advisory Committee.

18. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) asked what item was before the Committee. The item on organization of the Secretariat had been disposed of by the adoption at the 524th meeting of the United Kingdom proposal and

consideration of the question of economic studies for the Middle East had been concluded by the adoption at the previous meeting of the budget estimate for that purpose. His delegation would therefore reserve its position as to the procedural propriety of the present discussion.

19. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) noted that paragraph 3 of the draft resolution requested the Advisory Committee to report to the Fifth Committee at the current session. In view of the importance of the matter, he doubted whether the Advisory Committee would be able to give it adequate consideration in the short time remaining before the closure of the session. While agreeing, therefore, that the question should be referred to the Advisory Committee, he would suggest to the sponsors not to ask for a report at the present session.

20. Mr. VAN ASCH VAN WIJCK (Netherlands) supported those remarks; the Advisory Committee might be asked to report at the eleventh session.

21. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) regretted that he was unable to support the draft resolution, not only because of the point raised by the representatives of Denmark and the Netherlands but also because it involved a question of substance with which the Committee was not in a position to deal at that stage.

22. Mr. HALL (Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) observed that the question to be referred to the Advisory Committee was indeed difficult and the Committee would be glad to have plenty of time in which to consider it; if it was the Fifth Committee's wish, however, it would do its best to produce the report asked for in paragraph 3.

23. Mr. ANIS (Egypt) pointed out that the question had been discussed in substance in the Second Economic and Social Council (382nd-384th meetings) and it was in consequence of those discussions that the matter had been brought before the Fifth Committee. He saw no valid reason, therefore, why the Committee should not take up the matter at once. If the Committee so wished, however, he would agree to defer further consideration of the proposal to the eleventh session, on the understanding that the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee would keep the matter in mind during the coming year.

24. Mr. HALL (Acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) thanked the Egyptian representative for his helpful statement; he assured him that the Advisory Committee would give the proposal full consideration during its general review of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the coming year.

25. Mr. TURNER (Controller) assured the Egyptian representative and the other sponsors of the draft resolution that in preparing the 1957 estimates the Secretary-General would take full account of the views expressed and the suggestions made during the last two meetings.

26. Mr. CLOUGH (United Kingdom) suggested that paragraph 3 might now be amended to read: "Requests the Advisory Committee to express its views on this question and to report to the eleventh session of the General Assembly". Paragraph 1 might be rendered more specific by the insertion of the words "the Middle East unit of" before the words "the Bureau of Economic Affairs".

27. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) stated that, while he must reserve his position on the procedure, he would not object to the adoption of a draft resolution which, although unnecessary, did not contradict previous decisions. However, if the draft resolution as amended was to have any meaning at all, the date referred to in paragraph 1 should be changed from 1956 to 1957.

28. Mr. ANIS (Egypt) accepted those amendments on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution.

29. The CHAIRMAN put the eight-Power draft resolution to the vote.

The draft resolution was adopted by 32 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

30. Mr. CHAPMAN (New Zealand) explained that, although his delegation was aware of the need for an economic survey in the Middle East and in consequence was sympathetic to the claims of the Egyptian representative, it had abstained in the vote on the grounds that it was improper for the Fifth Committee to recommend the doubling of staff in a section of the Secretariat without having before it an outline of the work to be performed and an evaluation of its content. Instead, the Committee should request the Secretary-General to consider the staff required to undertake particular tasks, obtain the Advisory Committee's opinion on any proposals the Secretary-General might make, and, on the basis of that report, approve the manning tables for the section.

Permanent headquarters of the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva (A/3025, A/C.5/627/Rev.1, A/C.5/L.353, A/C.5/L.373 (continued) *

31. The CHAIRMAN referred to the discussions which had taken place at the 510th and 512th meetings and drew the Committee's attention to the draft resolution submitted by the representative of Canada (A/C.5/L.373).

32. Mr. POWERS (Secretariat) said that it had been agreed that the fourth paragraph of the preamble of the Canadian draft resolution should be amended to read:

"Having noted the statement made by the Acting Observer of Switzerland at the 510th meeting of its Fifth Committee to the effect that the Government of Switzerland is ready to consider the question of financial participation in the extension of the Palais des Nations, if a proposal from the United Nations is submitted to it."

33. Mr. WEIR (Canada) said that when the Fifth Committee had first considered the question it had been evident that there was a wide difference of opinion between delegations on the desirability of a further offer from the United Nations for the construction and maintenance of permanent premises for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva by extending the Palais des Nations. At that time, the Canadian delegation had supported the view that the United Nations should make an offer which would encourage ITU and WMO to enter into such an agreement. The Canadian delegation's attitude was based on the belief that common headquarters would encourage closer co-operation and co-ordination and would facilitate the development of common services. The

statement of the Acting Observer of Switzerland at the Committee's 510th meeting that the Swiss Government might agree to lend financial assistance towards the extension of the Palais des Nations had encouraged it to think that acceptable arrangements could be devised. The draft resolution was submitted with a view to assisting the Fifth Committee to arrive at a decision which would enable the Secretary-General to continue his studies and to make an offer to ITU and WMO which could be considered by the Governing Bodies of those organizations. He was confident that the Fifth Committee would approve the draft resolution, thereby contributing to the development of better co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

34. He expressed his appreciation of the generous offer made by the Swiss Government.

35. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) felt that the question could be approached either from the standpoint of budgetary savings or from that of long-term administrative policy and improved co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies. While the former criterion could not be ignored, the latter was the more important and in the long run represented a more effective means of saving. No budgetary question could be decided in isolation; in the present instance the difference between those who favoured the centralization of international activity and those who preferred to decentralize it would largely disappear if the two specialized agencies concerned were able to share accommodation and services with the European Office. The ITU Conference and the WMO Congress should be encouraged to choose that solution rather than accept the offer of separate accommodation which had been made by the Swiss authorities, and to that end the Committee should give the Secretary-General scope to make them a sufficiently attractive offer.

36. The Committee did not yet know how much the Swiss Government might be prepared to contribute towards the construction costs of a new wing of the Palais des Nations; the Committee should not on that account reject the idea of a new wing, though it should certainly approach the matter with caution. Even so, Belgium would unhesitatingly support the Canadian draft resolution.

37. The draft resolution made no reference to the provision of sixty additional offices for the United Nations to which the Secretary-General referred in his report (A/C.5/627/Rev.1, para. 14). The Committee should make sure that if it was decided to plan the proposed new wing allowance would be made for those offices. That point could be covered in the report to the General Assembly.

38. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) said that, unlike the Belgian representative, he considered the budgetary criterion the more important. In presenting its draft resolution the Canadian delegation had admirably clarified the issue and had rightly acknowledged in the preamble the generous attitude adopted in the matter by the Swiss Government and the Canton of Geneva. The Committee should bear in mind, however, that the Canton of Geneva was prepared both to build and to maintain the premises for the two specialized agencies at a total cost to the agencies of \$41,500 per annum. The \$200,000 per annum quoted in paragraph 1 (a) of the draft resolution as the maximum charge on the United Nations budget from 1957 to 1961 could amount

* Resumed from the 512th meeting.

to a total United Nations contribution of \$1 million. To raise that amount would probably cost Member States in interest and service charges (at, say, 2½ per cent) \$25,000 a year, in addition to which it was reasonable to assume that a further 2 per cent, or \$20,000 a year, would be needed to cover maintenance and depreciation. Thus, even if the remainder of the construction costs were covered by a gift or interest-free loan, the annual cost to Member States would be higher than under the Canton of Geneva proposal.

39. There appeared to be little advantage in housing the two specialized agencies in an extension of the Palais des Nations, rather than in a building in the Place des Nations, almost at the door of the Palais.

40. Since the Committee had considered the matter at its ninth session, considerable appropriations had had to be made (including that for the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy) which had not been anticipated at that time. In the circumstances the United Nations was not in a position to contemplate a disbursement of \$200,000 per annum for five years, which could not be demonstrated to be essential.

41. He therefore proposed that paragraph 1 (a) of the draft resolution should be amended to read:

“(a) That the Secretary-General is able to find ways and means of financing the construction costs in such a manner that no charge falls on the United Nations budget.”

42. If his amendment (A/C.5/L.377) was adopted he would support the draft resolution.

43. Mr. CLOUGH (United Kingdom) considered it desirable to specify in the draft resolution the total construction cost of the building on which, under paragraphs 2 and 3, the Secretary-General would be authorized to negotiate. Furthermore, the Belgian representative had done well to draw attention to the absence of any mention of the additional sixty offices for the United Nations itself.

44. Whatever additions might be made to the draft resolution, however, the situation had changed since the ninth session. The budgetary commitments of the United Nations were greater than had been anticipated and the two specialized agencies had received from the Swiss authorities a more advantageous offer than had been expected. In the circumstances, the United Nations was in no position to finance the construction of new headquarters for those agencies. The Committee should not over-estimate the improvement in co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies likely to accrue from the Canadian proposal. The Swiss offer was most generous as it stood and in making a direct offer to the agencies the Federal Government might go even further. Even if it did not, the agencies should still be given an opportunity of accepting the offer of the Canton of Geneva. His delegation was therefore unable to vote in favour of the Canadian draft resolution, nor would it be able to support any measure to provide sixty additional offices for the United Nations.

45. Mr. VAN ASCH VAN WIJCK (Netherlands) said that his delegation agreed with the Belgian representative and was therefore unable to support the Australian amendment. It would not be fitting for the United Nations to make a proposal on the lines of the draft resolution and at the same time stipulate that it would bear no part of the cost.

46. Unlike the United Kingdom representative he felt that to extend the Palais des Nations so as to house ITU and WMO would in the long run greatly strengthen their co-operation and co-ordination with the United Nations. The financial sacrifice by the United Nations would be justified. Moreover, money invested in building was not money thrown away.

47. Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wondered how adoption of the Australian amendment would affect the offer made by the Canton of Geneva and how the rental of one dollar per annum, referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of the draft resolution, compared with the rentals paid by other specialized agencies for the use of the United Nations premises. He asked the Australian representative whether his amendment entailed the deletion of paragraph 4.

48. The CHAIRMAN asked the Australian representative how his amendment affected paragraph 1 (b).

49. Mr. CUTTS (Australia), replying to the USSR representative, said that his amendment was not intended to affect paragraph 4. Australia had no objection to the Secretary-General's advancing from the Working Capital Fund whatever sum he considered safe, provided such sum was strictly an advance and not a charge on the budget.

50. With regard to the Chairman's query, his amendment should not directly affect paragraph 1 (b), though it might obscure the application of that provision.

51. Mr. MERROW (United States of America) said that his delegation had hoped that the Committee would unconditionally support an offer to construct headquarters for the two specialized agencies in the grounds of the Palais des Nations and still considered it desirable that the United Nations should take the initiative in developing closer co-operation and co-ordination with those agencies. In view, however, of the existing budgetary problems, his delegation was prepared to support a compromise offer acceptable to the Committee as a whole.

52. The effect of the Australian amendment would be to deprive the Canadian compromise plan of all meaning; he would therefore vote against it. He agreed with the Belgian representative that in the long run it might be more economical for the specialized agencies to share premises with the United Nations and it was desirable to make them as attractive an offer as possible.

53. Mr. GANEM (France) said that the Committee had to decide whether or not to abandon its time-honoured policy of giving specialized agencies all possible assistance. It had for years been the Fifth Committee's practice to include in its resolutions on the Working Capital Fund a paragraph, adopted with virtual unanimity and always with Australian and United Kingdom support, authorizing the Secretary-General to advance considerable sums from the Fund to such specialized agencies as needed assistance. The Canadian draft resolution was well within the tradition. Furthermore it should be realized that the figure of \$200,000 per annum represented a maximum, not an outright commitment, and that the mention in paragraph 1 (b) of fifty years as the period for repayment of the costs borne by the United Nations did not exclude the possibility that the agencies concerned might repay those sums in far less time. To be consistent the Committee could not do less than adopt the Canadian pro-

posal. His delegation would vote in favour of it and against the Australian amendment.

54. Mr. TURNER (Controller) suggested that if the Canadian delegation was prepared to incorporate in its draft resolution the ideas advanced by other delegations, paragraph 1 (a) should be amended to read:

“(a) That the Secretary-General is able to find ways and means of financing the construction costs, the total of which should not exceed [a sum to be specified by the Committee].”

55. He also suggested that the words “to incur the necessary commitments and” should be inserted in paragraph 4, between “should be accepted” and “to advance from the Working Capital Fund”.

56. If the Committee decided to accept the Belgian recommendation that thought should be given to the eventual provision of sixty extra offices for the United Nations, the Secretary-General would need a clear directive. That might take the form either of a statement in the Committee's report or of an additional paragraph in the Canadian draft resolution.

57. For the information of the USSR representative, the World Health Organization paid a rental of one Swiss franc per annum for the premises it occupied at the Palais des Nations.

58. Mr. WEIR (Canada) felt that paragraph 1 (a) of his draft resolution provided the Secretary-General with a sufficiently clear directive and that it was unnecessary to specify a total figure as the United Kingdom representative had suggested.

59. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) said that in introducing the subject of the sixty offices he had not intended to involve the Committee in a financial decision on the subject at the present session, but merely to secure a decision in principle. As the Controller had suggested, the Committee could either raise the point in its report to the Assembly or add a further paragraph to the draft resolution, between the present paragraphs 4 and 5, authorizing the Secretary-General, if the offer referred to in paragraph 4 was accepted, to arrange for provision to be made for sixty additional offices in the plans for the new extension to the Palais des Nations.

60. Mr. TURNER (Controller) pointed out that such a paragraph should specify that the cost of the sixty offices would be borne by the United Nations.

61. Mr. CLOUGH (United Kingdom) appealed to the Canadian representative to accept his suggestion for the inclusion in paragraph 1 (a) of a total figure, which should not exceed the estimate of \$1,820,000 shown in the Secretary-General's note (A/C.5/L.353, para. 3 (a)). The Fifth Committee ought not to accept a commitment to build without knowing what the building would cost.

62. He proposed that the words “no charge being made thereafter” should be added at the end of paragraph 1 (a) of the Canadian draft resolution. As the provision stood there was no guarantee that the maximum of \$1 million envisaged for 1957-1961 would constitute the total charge to the United Nations.

63. He favoured the addition to the draft resolution of a paragraph concerning the extra sixty offices but that paragraph should likewise specify the anticipated cost of those offices.

64. Mr. PELT (Director of the United Nations European Office), replying to a question by the USSR representative, said that there had been no talks with

the Swiss Government since the Committee's 510th meeting for the simple reason that the Secretary-General had no grounds on which to base them. He could not initiate them until the Committee had reached an appropriate decision; the Swiss Government had expressed its willingness to consider giving financial assistance towards the extension of the Palais des Nations once the United Nations had made a firm proposal to it and to the agencies.

65. In answer to the question of costs raised by the United Kingdom representative, he drew attention to paragraph 9 of document A/C.5/627/Rev.1, which stated that the cost of the new wing as reduced by request of the ITU Administrative Council would be approximately \$1,820,000, plus the cost of alterations (\$48,000) to the conference room. The latter cost, however, as was made clear in the Canadian draft resolution, would be borne by the two agencies. The figure of \$1,820,000, as had been explained in paragraph 9, was of course not final: the actual cost, not counting the additional sixty offices for the United Nations, might be less but it might equally well be more; the figure \$2,000,000 had therefore been used, for safety's sake, as an outside limit. Naturally the European Office would build the wing for less if that proved possible. The cost of building the sixty additional offices, provided they formed part of the new wing, would be approximately \$220,000.

66. Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) reminded the Committee that its function was to consider the matter of the permanent headquarters of the International Telecommunication Union and the World Meteorological Organization from the strictly budgetary point of view.

67. At the 510th meeting the Acting Observer of Switzerland had stated that his Government was prepared to consider financial participation in the construction work if the United Nations submitted an appropriate proposal; the Committee had before it a draft proposal for that purpose, which it was to consider from the budgetary point of view. From that point of view, there was no denying that the Australian representative's amendment was interesting. The United Nations had embarked upon a vast programme of activity in a number of very important fields, such as technical assistance for under-developed countries, a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development and research into the peaceful uses of atomic energy, all of which would make deep inroads into its budget. The Committee should reflect very seriously, therefore, before agreeing to a proposal which would entail heavy capital investment. Moreover, as the proposal in question was mainly in the interests of the specialized agencies, it should be remembered that whatever was said about their being the dependent children of the United Nations, they were nevertheless legally quite independent organizations for which the United Nations did not bear financial responsibility. The Canadian draft resolution further proposed the use of an advance from the Working Capital Fund; the Committee had already at the previous meeting taken a decision regarding sums drawn from the Working Capital Fund but it had no assurance that that Fund was in a sound condition. Again, it had been objected that to adopt the Australian amendment would be tantamount to a refusal on the part of the United Nations to assist the specialized agencies in the way it should. He would point out, however, that according to the draft resolution the building would be constructed

on United Nations land and that the United Nations would assume responsibility for its maintenance but would receive only a nominal rent for it.

68. For those reasons, therefore, his delegation would support the Australian amendment, without which it would be unable to vote in favour of the Canadian draft resolution.

69. Mr. WEIR (Canada) confirmed that it had not been the intention of his delegation to include in its draft resolution any proposal regarding the sixty additional offices for the use of the United Nations.

70. The United Kingdom representative had regretted the draft resolution's lack of detail on the subject of cost of the proposed new wing. The Canadian delegation did not think it would be correct to include such details in a draft resolution of that kind; it hoped that, subject to the limitations set forth in the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would be able to make detailed recommendations at the appropriate time.

71. His delegation was prepared to accept the addition of the words "no charge being made thereafter" to paragraph 1 (a), as suggested by the United Kingdom representative. He did not feel that a mention of the total figure in that paragraph would add anything to the resolution as it stood; it might, perhaps, be mentioned in the Rapporteur's report.

72. It seemed to him that the amendment proposed by the Australian representative would make the resolution entirely inoperative and would deprive the Secretary-General of any basis for negotiation: he would therefore vote against it.

73. He noted with satisfaction that there appeared to be general agreement on the need for a new building; his delegation considered that it should be associated with the other United Nations buildings in Geneva. He would be glad to know if the Secretary-General felt that he would be able to proceed with negotiations on the basis of the Canadian draft resolution.

74. Mr. TURNER (Controller) said that the Secretary-General would be able to do so on the basis of that draft resolution.

75. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) noted from the Canadian representative's statement that his proposal was not intended to cover the subject of the sixty additional offices; it would be more appropriate, therefore, if the Belgian suggestion in that connexion were to be submitted as a separate proposal but dependent upon the prior adoption of the Canadian resolution. If the provision for the sixty additional offices were to be included in the construction plan, it would be on the

understanding that they would be financed from the regular United Nations budget.

76. In response to a suggestion from the representative of the United Kingdom, he agreed to include in his proposal a reference to the approximate cost as mentioned in paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/627/Rev.1).

77. Mr. VENKATARAMAN (India) said that his Government was unwilling to incur responsibility in connexion with capital construction; he would therefore vote against the proposal to extend the office space of the European Office. With regard to the Canadian draft resolution, his delegation would be glad to have some time in which to consider it. He therefore asked that the vote should be postponed to the next meeting.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 37

Supplementary estimates for the financial year 1955 (A/3068, A/C.5/629, A/C.5/650)

78. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the Secretary-General's reports on budget expenditure to 30 September 1955 and of anticipated total requirements for 1955 (A/C.5/629) and on supplementary estimates for the financial year 1955 (A/C.5/650) and the Advisory Committee's thirtieth report (A/3068). The latter recommended approval of the supplementary estimates submitted by the Secretary-General. Members would note that the increase in the 1955 appropriations recommended by the Advisory Committee amounted to \$3,264,200.

79. Mr. TURNER (Controller), replying to a question by Mr. VAN ASCH VAN WIJCK (Netherlands), said that miscellaneous revenue for 1955 might amount to approximately \$100,000 more than had been estimated.

80. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft appropriation resolution in the annex to the Secretary-General's report on supplementary estimates for the financial year 1955 (A/C.5/650).

The draft resolution was adopted by 34 votes to 4.

81. Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had voted against the draft appropriation resolution because it provided for several supplementary items, such as reimbursement of income tax, which his delegation considered were unjustified and for which funds should not be appropriated in the United Nations budget.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.