

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

**ELEVENTH SESSION**  
*Official Records*



**SECOND COMMITTEE, 396th**

**MEETING**

**Thursday, 6 December 1956,**  
**at 10.45 a.m.**

**New York**

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**Chairman: Mr. Mohammad MIR KHAN (Pakistan).**

**AGENDA ITEM 26**

**Programmes of technical assistance (*continued*):**

**(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council  
(A/3154, A/C.2/189 and Add.1, A/C.2/  
L.283, A/C.2/L.284 and Corr.1, A/C.2/L.285,  
A/C.2/L.286, A/C.2/L.287) (*continued*)**

1. Mr. ARGAMAN (Israel) said that the annual reports on technical assistance and the statements made by the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board (TAB) and the Director General of the Technical Assistance Administration (TAA) at the 389th meeting of the Committee showed what excellent work had been done by those bodies and how devoted were the administrators of the technical assistance programmes. As its President had made clear in recent statements, the Government of Israel attached great importance to technical assistance and appreciated the benefits such programmes could bring. Israel had demonstrated its faith in technical assistance by increasing its contribution for 1957 by 80 per cent over that for 1956.

2. There was little he could add in a general way to what had been said by other speakers, and he would therefore confine himself to some remarks about technical assistance operations in his own country. Israel's problems in the technical field were peculiarly difficult, for it was an under-developed country and during the eight years of its existence its population had more than doubled through the immigration of people, many of them poor, unskilled, ill-educated and to a large extent without experience of the most elementary kinds of machinery and mechanical processes. Merely to meet the basic needs of the augmented population had called for considerable investment in agriculture, water resources and industry; but those and other branches of the economy had in any case required development to give the country a sound economic basis. Consequently, Israel had enthusiastically welcomed the technical assistance offered it either through the United Nations or through bilateral agreements. He was glad to be able to report progress in all fields. Agricultural production and the utilization of water resources had continuously advanced; new industrial crops had been introduced; in industry co-ordinated schemes had been initiated and experts were already at work in many different fields, including textiles, chemi-

cal, metals, foods and transport; work was being done on industrial productivity and a productivity institute had recently been set up.

3. In order to make the very best use of the assistance provided, his Government had introduced a system for co-ordinating and allocating priorities to requests from ministries in a special department of the Prime Minister's Office. An inter-ministerial committee examined all requests, decided which were most urgent, and prevented any duplication. Plans were made long in advance. In 1956 a conference had been organized of all United Nations technical experts, United States operations mission experts and their Israel counterparts. The conference had covered many fields; its results had been most encouraging; and the exchange of views had been very helpful. One interesting suggestion which had been made was that the length of stay of an expert should be more elastic, depending on the nature of the work with which he was concerned. He was aware that it was difficult to obtain the services of highly qualified specialists for lengthy periods, but the problem might perhaps be solved by setting up a permanent panel of United Nations experts.

4. Israel had embarked on another experiment which might be of interest to other countries. That was the project, carried out within the programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), for the expansion of the Haifa Technion with the help of visiting professors. Each foreign professor spent a few months at the Technion to help establish the new faculty, and was to return each year for the succeeding five years, for a similarly short stay, to assess the progress made and to suggest any changes he thought necessary. Such a scheme was economical and at the same time provided for continuity of direction. That made it possible to benefit from the services of leading figures in their fields who could not have been called upon for longer periods.

5. Like many other countries, Israel attached great importance to the matter of public administration and had recently established a special faculty in that subject at the Hebrew University with the help of experts from Canada and the United Kingdom.

6. As the Director General of TAA had rightly pointed out, the technical assistance programmes were necessarily reciprocal in nature. Israel had not only received but had also provided experts and had offered as well as accepted fellowships. In such matters as community development and experiments in rural co-operative living, Israel had a rich fund of experience upon which others might draw.

7. He would like to express his Government's gratitude to all members of the technical assistance bodies, both at Headquarters and in the field, for the invaluable assistance they were giving Israel in its efforts to achieve economic viability.

8. Mr. DAMLUJI (Iraq) congratulated the Chairman and assured him of his delegation's full co-operation. He

also welcomed the new members, who represented a fresh moral backing and an obvious necessity.

9. Technical assistance represented a major and active part of the United Nations. Iraq reaffirmed its belief and faith in the value of that concept whereby almost all the nations of the world met and extended to one another their economic support and co-operation. The programmes brought benefit both to the developed and to the under-developed countries, and provided a natural and peaceful means for levelling inequalities. That that belief was shared was evident from the increased contributions pledged for 1957. Iraq had done its part by doubling its previous contribution. It was hoped that contributions would continue to mount during the coming years.

10. Thirty-eight dependent territories were now receiving technical assistance. The Committee might give thought to the urgent need of all Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, and encourage the Powers concerned to seek further assistance for the countries under their administration.

11. His delegation wished to stress the importance of periodic evaluations of the Expanded Programme as a whole. The indication in the TAB report entitled *A Forward Look* (E/2885-E/TAC/49) that it might be possible to appoint representatives of the Board to cover all countries with annual programmes in excess of \$150,000 was welcome. Furthermore, the value of a qualified and experienced resident representative had been proved in co-ordinating the work of TAA and the specialized agencies within the national programmes of the country where he came to reside. He could be in a position to provide all parties concerned with a more homogeneous outlook so far as the needs of the country were concerned and the type and calibre of experts required. He could also assist all parties, including newly-appointed technical assistance staff, in adapting themselves to local conditions. In those functions, the resident representative would help in minimizing waste.

12. It was important that the best possible results should be obtained from the projects undertaken, but it was an unfortunate fact that the work of experts was often held up by failure to secure, or delay in securing, the necessary equipment. The provision of equipment ought to be regarded as an essential part of the Expanded Programme, and TAA and TAB should adopt a bolder approach in improving that situation. The real needs of the countries should be the sole criterion for the provision of such materials. It was only by following such a method that an equitable and just distribution in the area could be ensured.

13. In the matter of fellowships, his delegation was convinced that longer periods of training would be very advantageous. Fellowships constituted an investment in human beings—the most worth-while of investments—and every effort should be made to overcome difficulties such as those of language. A longer stay in the foreign country of study would help to solve that problem. A part of that time would be allotted to an intensive language course whenever needed, as it was possible that the best recruits for such fellowships might not necessarily be those who spoke the foreign language well enough to qualify immediately for the grant.

14. The whole Arab world was now passing through a profound stage in the development of its economic life. Iraq, for instance, had development plans which covered every aspect of its public life. The need for trained and qualified personnel was great, and his Government

hoped that the role of the United Nations technical assistance programme and those of the specialized agencies in providing as many high calibre experts as possible, as well as fellowship grants, would be a bigger one in the near future.

15. Iraq fully supported the Secretary-General's suggestion for the setting up of a special international service to help the Governments of under-developed countries to solve their administration problems.

16. With regard to the draft resolution to increase the present membership of the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC), (A/C.2/L.284 and Corr. 1), his delegation agreed with the principle, but thought that the membership of TAC could be increased by more than four and that it should be specified, either in the resolution itself or in the Rapporteur's report, from which areas the new members should be drawn.

17. Mr. Damluji expressed his Government's appreciation for the efforts of TAB and TAA in furthering the aims and principles of the United Nations.

18. Mr. SISOUK (Laos) said that along with its independence his country had acquired a host of problems—administrative, economic, social and technical—which urgently required solution if that independence itself were not to run the risk of being threatened. It was grateful for its continuing bonds of friendship with France and was at the same time conscious of its loss through the breaking of its links with a larger political unit. It found itself, a markedly under-developed country, without a seaboard and with an inadequate administration. Much remained to be done. Certain essential steps, such as a systematic inventory of natural resources, a population census and a survey of land uses, had yet to be taken. There appeared to be possibilities that his country possessed rich mineral resources, but methodical development of such resources was still at the initial stage. Industry was in its infancy: essential agricultural implements and consumer goods were produced by handicraft workers. The weak network of communications involved a slowing down in the export of available surpluses.

19. Given such a multiplicity of tasks, it had been essential for his Government first to draw up an order of priorities, and it had done so in a five-year development plan. Its need for economic and financial support had been great and in that connexion he wished to thank France, the United States and the participants in the Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development for South and South-East Asia for their generous assistance. What Laos needed even more, however, was technicians and trained personnel of its own; and for those it looked to the United Nations technical assistance programmes. Laos was anxious to take a full and active part in the economic life of the world and not to lag behind, relying endlessly on help and gifts. The United Nations could assist it in fulfilling that aim, and had in fact already begun to do so by sending experts and offering scholarships.

20. His delegation had some comments to make on the regular programme and on the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance as it had experienced them.

21. In the first place, it felt that a larger proportion of resources should be devoted to supplies and equipment. His country's first need was for practical technicians, but the value of their work was lost if they had insufficient demonstration material and equipment. Local training centres and pilot stations equipped with apparatus suited to local needs were far more useful than purely theoretical instruction. Again, a more generous supply of equip-

ment could pave the way for the economic assistance of the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development. It might perhaps be made possible by a scheme providing for voluntary contributions in kind from the more highly developed countries, and such a scheme might permit an expansion of commercial relations between the donor and the recipient countries.

22. He would also like to suggest that there was a minimum limit to the money value of the technical assistance given, below which it would cease to have any real effectiveness. Thus a purely arithmetical calculation based on the size of the country and of its population could be misleading. That was an aspect of the matter to which the representative of Sudan had drawn attention (392nd meeting). The small States found themselves compelled to choose between the various specialized agencies in making their requests, and to sacrifice one or other of the two essential elements of the system: namely, technical assistance as such, and the training of personnel. Such problems would, of course, persist so long as the financial resources of the technical assistance bodies remained so limited, but their effects were more marked in the smaller countries which, after all, faced the same problems as large ones. Indeed, such were the problems confronting States like Laos that his delegation felt that there was some justification for according them a special place in the scheme of technical assistance, particularly in the matter of the organization of administrative machinery and public services. He would go so far as to suggest that a special scheme for that purpose should be drawn up by the United Nations in agreement with the specialized agencies and automatically offered to every newly-formed State as it became a Member. He put forward that suggestion in the hope that the Secretary-General would give it his early attention.

23. The Laotian delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal (A/C.2/189 and Add. 1) for an increase in the allocation from the regular programme funds for technical assistance in public administration, but felt that it might better be spent on sending experts to the small, under-developed, newly-independent countries to occupy important posts in their administrations until such time as they could train their own personnel.

24. He would not like it to be thought that Laos was ungrateful for the assistance it had been offered, for that was far from being the case. Moreover, his country considered the technical assistance programmes as the most tangible evidence of the international co-operation which was one of the objectives of the United Nations. Laos would continue to make its small but symbolic contribution to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

25. Mr. WOULBROUN (Belgium) said that the United Nations could claim credit for having set up effective international machinery for technical assistance, for having organized the participation of over 100 States and territories, and for having enlisted the co-operation of many inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations. Although the volume of assistance was small compared with the urgent needs of the under-developed countries, the achievements of the participating organizations were very considerable. Mr. Owen, Mr. Keenleyside and their respective staffs deserved full praise for the enthusiastic way in which they had succeeded in administering the complex programmes.

26. The assignment of experts to the beneficiary countries accounted for approximately two-thirds of the funds allocated for projects. The term "expert" should not be

misconstrued: although some of the experts were outstanding in their field, others were technicians with more modest qualifications. In any event, as the Executive Chairman of TAB had stated, the most important factor in the success of the Expanded Programme was that the participating organizations had recruited an exceptionally competent and eager group of international experts. Belgium, which had a long tradition of technological and university education, had a body of qualified administrators, engineers and officials which it would be glad to make available to the participating organizations. The assignment of groups of experts of different nationalities was of benefit to the recipient countries, to the States providing such experts and to the experts themselves. Nevertheless, it was a fact that the services of consulting firms might offer distinct advantages in specific cases of industrial development. According to the Secretary-General's report (E/2856) more extended use would probably be made of their services in future. Belgian consulting firms and consulting engineers with considerable practical experience of work in the under-developed countries were eager to participate in United Nations activities in that field.

27. Some difficulties of recruitment still remained. The administrators of the programmes had pointed out that the most striking change since the early days of technical assistance was perhaps the fact that the period of surveys and studies was past and that international experts were now participating directly in development projects and public administration and training activities. In that connexion, the Director General of TAA had referred to salary problems in the recruitment of highly specialized experts from industry, but had suggested that the honour of serving on United Nations missions might encourage experts to accept such missions even at some financial sacrifice. That factor, which the Director General had referred to as "the altruistic differential", was important because it was far from certain that an extra 10 per cent, for example, in salary would be sufficient in itself to induce experts of high repute to accept missions which they hesitated to undertake. Moreover, the Secretariat had considerable latitude in regard to the salaries offered. The Belgian delegation felt that the recruitment of qualified experts would be facilitated if other countries followed the Netherlands' example and recruited, at their own expense, young technicians for service as "junior partners" in missions headed by qualified experts. It also welcomed TAB's recent decision to give long-term contracts to a small number of experts who had served on a series of missions under the Expanded Programme. He hoped that the Secretariat would supply more detailed information on that subject.

28. Belgium hoped to welcome a larger number of Fellows who wished to pursue advanced technical studies.

29. TAB had emphasized that training was the very basis of technical assistance. The programme of conferences and seminars for the personnel of the central banks of the Latin American countries was very interesting because of its specialized nature and because it combined the services of the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the secretariats of the United Nations and of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

30. It had been pointed out that technical assistance experts could not perform their duties efficiently without the necessary equipment and supplies; but care must be taken not to spend the limited funds on what would inevitably be only a small amount of equipment, thereby

reducing the resources available for essential technical assistance and training services.

31. In resolution 623 A II (XXII) the Council had recommended that the General Assembly give special attention to the need for sufficient funds for the United Nations programme in public administration, and additional information in that connexion had been furnished in two reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.2/189 and Add.1) and in a statement by Mr. Keenleyside, pointing out that it was essential to improve the administrative services if substantial economic and social progress were to be achieved. While appreciating the value of technical assistance in public administration, his Government considered that any request for new funds should take into account the general United Nations budget, should remain within a certain limit, and should have due regard to priorities. The special expenditure which the United Nations was at present called upon to assume should also be borne in mind.

32. It was remarkable that the pledges made by Governments to the Expanded Programme between 1950 and 1956 amounted to almost \$150 million. The United States' contribution, although only a small part of its technical assistance activities as a whole, was very generous and constituted a substantial portion of the funds available to the Expanded Programme. The United States representative's statement at the 393rd meeting should therefore be a source of great satisfaction to the Committee. Belgium would continue to give its full support to the Expanded Programme although, under the Constitution, it could not undertake commitments for more than one year. His Government intended to submit to Parliament a proposal to the effect that the Belgian contribution for 1957, should be the same as for 1956, namely 21,875,000 francs, or the equivalent of \$437,500.

33. His Government was satisfied with the measures adopted by the Economic and Social Council with regard to the level of the Working Capital and Reserve Fund and supported Council resolution 623 B III (XXII) concerning currency utilization. It was therefore opposed to the Czechoslovak and Romanian draft resolution (A/C.2/L.283).

34. TAB had expressed the opinion that the difficulties of currency utilization could be solved within the framework of existing regulations. He hoped that TAB would soon overcome those difficulties in such a way that the measures provided for in paragraphs 3 and 4 of resolution 623 B III (XXII) would be applied only provisionally and on a limited scale. A contribution could be considered as not readily usable only after every effort to use it effectively had been made by the donating country, the various secretariats and the recipient countries.

35. He joined with the other delegations which had urged that administrative costs should be kept at the minimum level consistent with good management. The draft resolution on additional members, which he had read with great interest, was the formal presentation of proposals which had already been made with a view to ensuring wider participation in the administration of the programmes.

36. The system of country programming had enhanced the importance of the resident representatives and at the same time encouraged recipient countries to systematize their efforts in order to promote their economic development. The existence of resident representatives did not preclude the co-operation of special representatives of the participating organizations. It was comforting to note

that in 1955 as many as twenty-six resident representatives had been accredited to forty-five States and territories.

37. He had stressed those points because it should be remembered that the Expanded Programme was not only a multilateral undertaking but also a combination of the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

38. The basic economic studies and activities in the industrial and other fields not covered by the specialized agencies were highly important. A number of interesting developments had been reported, such as the establishment of technological institutes, training centres and industrial research centres.

39. All the specialized agencies had achieved remarkable results in their respective fields. Special mention should be made of the services rendered to Governments by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund, both individually and in co-operation with the United Nations, in studying national economies and in preparing economic development projects. Co-operation with other inter-governmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations made it possible to increase substantially the scope of the services provided.

40. It was very difficult to separate the technical assistance activities carried out in connexion with development plans from the plans themselves, but if the technical assistance programmes had made an appreciable contribution to the various achievements reported, they had already scored a great success. The United Nations had every right to be proud of the results achieved with the relatively modest resources at its disposal.

41. Mr. WORKNEH (Ethiopia) expressed his Government's appreciation of the Expanded Programme. It particularly valued the basic philosophy, which was to help under-developed countries to help themselves, and hoped that the Programme would continue to grow year by year.

42. Some further improvements might be made. For instance, the paper work which had to be completed before the initiation of country programmes might well be reduced, and some provisions of the standard technical assistance agreement appeared to place too great a liability upon the Government concerned.

43. Another problem was the increasing difficulty experienced in recruiting qualified experts. A complete review of the question of recruitment was essential so that measures could be taken to remedy the situation.

44. It would also be useful if the administrators of the Expanded Programme pointed out to Governments that technical assistance might be forthcoming to meet requests that did not come within the categories determined by TAB. In order to guide TAB in that respect, economic commissions might be set up for Africa and the Middle East. They would assist TAB in achieving a more equitable distribution of resources among the countries of those regions.

45. His delegation supported the proposal made in the Czechoslovak and Romanian draft resolution that the question of currency utilization should be postponed until the twelfth regular session of the General Assembly. Economic and Social Council resolution 623 B III (XXII) on that point was contrary to the fundamental principle that Governments should be free to make contributions on an entirely voluntary basis in whatever currency they had available. Any limitation of that principle would inevitably reduce the volume of funds available. His dele-

gation would favour a compromise draft resolution on currency utilization which could command unanimous support.

46. Mr. SAMPEDRO (Spain) did not intend to go into the details of Spain's contribution to the Expanded Programme, which was amply described in TAB documents. He wished merely to stress Spain's enthusiastic support for what was one of the most valuable activities of the United Nations. Technical assistance, by increasing the economic capacity of numerous countries, was contributing to the welfare of millions of men and women. As the United States representative had pointed out, technical assistance benefited donor and recipient alike and, by improving the domestic economies of the under-developed countries, also acted as a stimulus to international trade. The ideas put forward in the TAB report entitled *A Forward Look* were particularly interesting and should be borne in mind by the Committee as it looked towards the future.

47. Mr. EL KOHEN (Morocco) said that his country was suffering from an acute lack of technical equipment and experience. At the same time it was still experiencing difficulty in recovering from the colonialist régime which had exploited the country for its own ends. It therefore had the greatest interest in the United Nations programmes of technical assistance which amply justified the international support given to them.

48. He paid a tribute to the work done in Morocco by the World Health Organization experts in the anti-trachoma campaign which, it was hoped, would soon eliminate the disease. His country was also grateful to the team of experts which had recently been sent by TAB in order to work out suitable technical assistance projects for the country.

49. While it was essential to preserve the multilateral character of the Expanded Programme, it was inadvisable to insist that countries should make their contributions only in readily usable currencies. Such a step would not encourage them to increase their contributions, the total of which was still insufficient to meet the great needs of the under-developed countries.

50. Mr. ELFVING (Sweden) expressed satisfaction at the way in which the technical assistance programmes had progressed during the past year. His country was keenly interested in their continued expansion and welcomed the various measures taken by the Economic and Social Council, TAC and TAB to improve the administration of technical assistance and to ensure co-ordination. The guiding principle must be to use available resources as rationally as possible in order to further economic and social progress in the less-developed countries as quickly and efficiently as possible.

51. Although the expert knowledge of the participating agencies was vital to the planning and execution of the programmes, the need for unity and co-ordination could not be over-emphasized. As the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had said in its second report to the ninth session of the General Assembly, (A/2688) the idea of the Expanded Programme was to achieve a united effort through intimate collaboration between the United Nations and the specialized agencies and not an effort which would merely be co-ordinated through a liaison body. It was also important that the normal work of the specialized agencies over and above the Expanded Programme should be planned and executed with due regard to those principles.

52. Considerable progress in co-ordination had been made since the institution of country programming. In

that respect, his delegation had been particularly gratified that the TAC Working Group on the evaluation of the Expanded Programme had so strongly stressed in its report (E/TAC/48) the central role to be played by TAB resident representatives. His delegation was also anxious that the meetings between TAB and representatives of the countries participating in the Programme should be resumed in one form or another. The practical questions dealt with at the TAC and Council meetings at Geneva in July and August 1956 seemed to be of such importance that countries which were not directly represented in the Council or in TAC should be given an opportunity of expressing their views. The question of consultations between the national committees, TAB, and the participating agencies also deserved continued attention.

53. The implementation of the new principles of country programming was likely to place greater emphasis on technical assistance in the sphere of economic development. The efforts which had been made to attach industrial advisers to the offices of resident representatives should be intensified. The experiment of assigning personnel from TAA and from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to the regional economic commissions seemed to have given good results.

54. At the moment related administrative matters were often being dealt with by several agencies in one and the same country. It would be much better if such agencies could share office premises. In that way, whatever agency they were working for, co-operation between foreign experts in the field would be assured. Uniform briefings of experts could also be held in the countries where they were working.

55. More uniform principles could be applied with regard to the selection of Fellows. Activities connected with fellowships and experts should be co-ordinated and regarded as two aspects of the same problem. Fellowships should be awarded only in cases where they could yield practical results. The eighth report of TAB (E/2842-E/TAC/REP/66 and Add.1, E/TAC/REP/68) had stated that over 80 per cent of Fellows had been employed in positions where their training and experience abroad enabled them to be of greater service to their countries. No effort should be spared to increase that figure to 100 per cent.

56. It seemed advisable to try to give a more stable financial basis to existing forms of technical assistance rather than to create new forms. The funds available were still far too small compared with the requirements of the under-developed countries, and it was known that the United States contribution for 1958 would be reduced so as not to exceed 33 per cent of the total. Every effort must therefore be made by contributing countries to ensure that the Programme did not shrink. It must continue to grow as it had done in previous years. The Swedish Government for its part was inclined to lay more stress on the multilateral technical assistance programmes of the United Nations than on the bilateral technical assistance Sweden was giving directly to other countries and, subject to parliamentary approval, the Swedish contribution to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for 1957 would therefore be increased by 500,000 Swedish kroner, or the equivalent of \$95,500.

57. Mr. SHAHA (Nepal) supported the draft resolutions embodied in documents A/C.2/L.286 and A/C.2/L.287. Speaking as the representative of an under-developed country which had great difficulty in mobilizing its

human and material resources and which was handicapped by its isolated geographic position, he said that technical assistance was of particular concern to his delegation. In 1955 Nepal had launched a five-year plan which was aimed at achieving improvements in every branch of the country's economy. That plan required the fullest support from the United Nations technical assistance programmes, and his country was grateful for the help that had already been given through TAB and the specialized agencies. Nepal would continue to lend its fullest support to the programmes.

58. Mr. ARDALAN (Iran) supported the Secretary-General's request for an additional allocation for technical assistance in public administration. The Secretary-General had explained that the number of expert-months provided by TAA during 1956 would probably reach 800,

but that number was not enough. In spite of its efforts, the United Nations had been able to meet only a relatively small part of the expressed needs of Governments in the field of public administration. Mr. Keenleyside had explained that as industrialization progressed the experts provided had to have better qualifications and therefore required higher salaries. It was essential that in order to replace such experts countries should receive help in training experts in public administration. The need for research in the field was particularly acute; in the allocations proposed by the Secretary-General in document A/C.2/189, para. 24, expenditure on surveys and seminars respectively might be reduced by \$5,000 and the saving of \$10,000 added to the \$30,000 allocated for research.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.