



Twenty-first session
Agenda item 83

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. David SILVEIRA da MOTA (Brazil)

1. At its 1160th meeting, on 5 December 1966, the Fifth Committee considered the reports of the Secretary-General (A/6507) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/6536) on the United Nations International School. The report of the School's Board of Trustees appeared as an annex to the Secretary-General's report. The Committee also had before it a draft resolution sponsored by Cyprus, Denmark, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Sweden, the United Arab Republic, Yugoslavia and Zambia (A/C.5/L.884).
2. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on this item, the Chairman of that Committee referred to the progress made in the preparation of the new site of the school for the building to be erected there in the course of the next eighteen months. He emphasized the importance the Advisory Committee attached to the Development Fund, both from the point of view of ensuring the School adequate funds for bursaries, scholarships and staff development, as well as obviating the necessity for the School to seek the assistance of the United Nations in meeting operating deficits. The Advisory Committee had pointed out in its report that this assistance had amounted to \$378,300 for the years 1960-1966, and that a further deficit of \$48,900 was anticipated for the academic year 1966-1967. The Advisory Committee therefore joined with the Secretary-General in his appeal to Member Governments to support the School by contributing to the Development Fund. The Advisory Committee believed that the School should be expected to achieve a balanced budget and consequently to require no further

assistance from the General Assembly as from the time the School moves into its new premises. Finally, the Advisory Committee stated that the Assembly may wish to follow the suggestion of the Secretary-General and make a grant to the International School Fund of \$48,900 to cover the anticipated operating deficit for 1966-1967.

3. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the School thanked the members of the Committee for their past understanding of the problems with which the School has been faced. She paid tribute to the City of New York, the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller family for the facilities and grants they had made available to the School which, as a result, was now in a position to proceed with the construction of the new School building. She pointed out that the School, which continued to meet an important need of the United Nations, had again advanced in its efforts to achieve a wider geographical representation on its staff, having appointed teachers for the first time from Eastern Europe and Africa. The student body now had seventy-four nationalities represented among the students. She emphasized the urgent need for Member Governments to make contributions to the Development Fund, and reminded the Committee that the grant of \$7.5 million made by the Ford Foundation to the School for the new building had been contingent upon the Development Fund reaching a level of \$3 million.

4. The representative of Kuwait introduced the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.884) sponsored by ten other Governments and his own, and paid tribute to the efforts of the Board of Trustees, and the Director and staff of the School during the past years. He felt sure that all Governments realized the importance of the School, and appealed to those who had not already done so, to contribute to the Development Fund. He referred specifically to operative paragraphs 1 and 3 of the draft resolution. The first paragraph would authorize the Secretary-General, as trustee of the grants made available by the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller family, to transfer necessary funds to the Board of Trustees so that construction of the new building may proceed. The third paragraph would enable the School's anticipated operating deficit for 1966-1967 to be met.

5. Other delegations supported the draft resolution and emphasized the role which the School continued to play with reference to recruitment of staff and as a much needed facility for members of delegations as well as the staff of the

Secretariat. They were unanimous on the importance of a Development Fund to ensure the financial independence of the School and to improve the quality of its education which in many respects was unique and of a pioneering nature. It was mentioned that it would be unrealistic to look for private donors without further contributions from more Governments. Two delegations announced the intention of their Governments to make contributions, while one delegation asked that further efforts be made to achieve a wider geographical distribution in regard to the faculty of the School.

6. The Committee unanimously approved the draft resolution (A/C.5/L.884).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

7. The Fifth Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations International School

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,^{1/} including the report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International School, and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon,^{2/}

Noting that the Secretary-General has accepted the offer by the City of New York of a permanent site for the School as authorized by General Assembly resolution 2123 (XX) of 21 December 1965 and has entered into a ninety-nine-year lease for this site,

Noting that contracts for the preparation of the site, detailed specifications for the new building and certain other preliminary steps in the construction have been made possible by the generous contributions of \$7.5 million by the Ford Foundation to build and equip the School and \$1 million by the Rockefeller family to prepare the site,

Recalling that a major condition of the Ford Foundation grant is the establishment of a Development Fund which will ensure the financial viability of the School and promote its educational excellence,

^{1/} A/6507.

^{2/} A/6536.

Expressing its appreciation to the forty-four Governments which have made pledges to the Development Fund as well as to generous private donors whose combined contributions have now brought the total of the Fund to an amount of \$1,014,613,

Cognizant of the fact that the Board of Trustees and the Secretary-General believe that a minimum of \$3 million must be raised to accomplish the major purposes of the Fund,

1. Authorizes the Secretary-General to transfer to the Board of Trustees for the United Nations International School from the grants already available the amounts necessary to ensure the speedy completion of the new building;

2. Urges Member States which have not yet done so to contribute promptly to the Development Fund for the School under the terms of General Assembly resolutions 1982 (XVIII) of 17 December 1963, 2003 (XIX) of 10 February 1965 and 2123 (XX) of 21 December 1965;

3. Decides to contribute \$48,900 to the International School Fund in 1967 to cover the operating deficit foreseen for the current school year.
