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PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Brian J. LYNCH (New Zealand)

1. On 18 December 1967, at its 1228th meeting, the Fifth Committee considered the report of the Committee on Conferences (A/6991) and an oral statement by the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences.
2. Several delegations commended the Committee on Conferences for the progress it had made in a difficult task, particularly in formulating its basic approach and in elaborating the dimensions of the problem. They noted with interest the Committee's general recommendations. On the other hand, they expressed disappointment that the Committee had not been able to propose reductions in the heavy programme of meetings planned for 1968 largely because the Committee's examination and consideration of the programme had taken place at a very late stage when firm dates had been arranged and other commitments made. In this respect they endorsed the suggestion of the Committee that it might meet at some other period than the regular session and might begin its examination of the 1969 calendar in the first quarter of 1968.
3. Some representatives observed that the basic decisions with regard to the programme of conferences and meetings were taken by Member States and it was their responsibility to take measures to rationalize the calendar. In this regard one representative suggested that the Committee should try to complete its work on the basic calendar for the succeeding year by the start of each regular session of the General Assembly and should submit its proposals concerning possible

adjustments to the Fifth Committee. If the Committee concurred, it might then invite the organ concerned to review its decision regarding the proposed conference or meeting. In the event that differences of view arose, the General Assembly would, of course, be the final authority. Another delegation stressed that the Secretariat had an important role to play in this field.

4. The Fifth Committee decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly the approval of the draft resolution contained in annex VI of the report of the Committee on Conferences (A/6991).

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