



Chairman: Mr. Motoo OGISO (Japan).

AGENDA ITEM 73

Budget estimates for the financial year 1973 (continued)
(for the documentation, see 1541st meeting)

*Report of the Special Committee on the Financial Situation
of the United Nations (continued) (A/8729)*

1. Mr. AMERASINGHE (Sri Lanka) commended the members of the Special Committee for the succinct report they had prepared on the financial situation of the United Nations, which was one of the most serious problems confronting the Organization and which threatened its very survival. In paragraph 5 of its report (A/8729), the Special Committee had correctly identified the three constituent elements of the present financial crisis. He agreed with the Special Committee that, if the erosion of the finances of the United Nations was to be arrested and the short-term deficit held static until it could be liquidated, a sound plan for a budget and its financing must be developed that would have the full support of all Member States. However, he did not share the Special Committee's view that all parts of the problem must be dealt with simultaneously as a total package. The factor common to all three constituent elements of the financial problem facing the United Nations was the refusal of certain countries, on grounds of principle, to contribute to the financing of certain items of expenditure. As long as those countries persisted in that position, the United Nations would continue to suffer from a cash liquidity problem, a short-term deficit and long-term indebtedness.

2. One feature of past financial practice to which his delegation objected and which was not covered in the report of the Special Committee was the requirement imposed by the current financial regulations that Member States should pay the full amount of their assessed contributions to the Organization within one month of the receipt of the notification of their commitments. That requirement appeared to be unreasonable, since the Organization's expenditure was spread over the year and did not fall all at one time. He therefore proposed that the financial regulations should be amended so as to permit Member States to pay their assessed contributions in instalments related to actual requirements. The instalments could be quarterly and would not necessarily be in equal amounts but would be related to the expenditure incurred by the Organization for the quarter in question. The quarterly payments should be obligatory, and any State which defaulted on them should be required to pay interest at a rate

slightly higher than the prevailing overdraft rate of commercial banks.

3. Such an amendment of the financial regulations, while desirable in itself, would not solve the problem of the short-term deficit and the long-term indebtedness of the United Nations, which was the result of the refusal of certain States to contribute to the financing of the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea and the United Nations bond issue. The liabilities of the United Nations in respect of those items could be met by proportionately applying the contributions of Member States which had agreed to bear the costs involved to the reduction thereof. The balance of the amount needed could be obtained from voluntary contributions.

4. Paragraph 9 of the Special Committee's report noted that a substantial number of Member Governments had responded to the appeals of the Secretary-General and the Special Committee by paying their assessed contributions to the regular budget at dates earlier than had been their practice. That fact should not, however, be given undue prominence, since, as the Secretary-General himself had pointed out, the earlier payment of assessments had done nothing to solve the basic, continuing problem. The conclusion drawn by the Special Committee, in paragraph 10 of its report, that the steps taken by the Secretary-General had created an atmosphere of goodwill among the Members of the Organization and thus formed a basis for a realistic approach to the problems that had to be solved in order to put the United Nations on a more efficient footing was no more than an exercise in wishful thinking.

5. In paragraph 11 of its report, the Special Committee noted that the total arrears due from Member States as of 30 September 1972 amounted to \$98.3 million, of which only \$44.3 million was uncontested and presumably recoverable. If paid, that latter amount could be used to liquidate part of the short-term deficit, which, according to the Secretary-General's "A" estimate, amounted to \$69.7 million, including \$16.6 million of arrears assessed against the Chiang Kai-shek régime. Thus, even if the recoverable portion of those arrears was paid, the Organization would still be several million dollars short of liquidating its short-term deficit. Moreover, the United Nations would still face the problem of meeting its longer-term obligations, referred to in paragraph 22 of the Special Committee's report.

6. The solutions to the present situation which the Special Committee proposed in chapter III of its report were not entirely conclusive. Although 12 of the 15 Members of the Special Committee had reached an understanding according to which they would enter into consultations with their respective regional groups concerning the proposals set out in paragraph 14, 2 members of the Special Committee—Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics—had not accepted the package deal that had been worked out and 1 member had not attended any meetings of the Committee. The reservations expressed by the Polish and Soviet delegations with regard to the package deal were understandable in that, under the proposed arrangement, they would indirectly be paying for the items to which they objected in principle. Those delegations had a legitimate grievance, since their countries stood to gain nothing from the total package.

7. As far as his delegation was concerned, however, the package deal as described in paragraph 14 of the Special Committee's report was acceptable, provided that there was a binding commitment on the part of all Member States to contribute to the technical programmes for developing countries on a voluntary basis in an amount equal to or greater than the amount now contributed to the regular budget for that purpose. The developing countries were entitled to an assurance that there would be no curtailment or diminution of contributions to such programmes and that contributions would continue to be channelled through the United Nations system.

8. With regard to the unpaid assessment of the Chiang Kai-shek régime, it had been proposed that those responsible for denying the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China should assume that debt. His delegation could not in good conscience support that proposal, since it would tend to establish the principle that States Members of the United Nations should be assessed according to the benefits or political advantages they derived from membership in the Organization. On the other hand, to suggest that the People's Republic of China should shoulder the burden of the debt owed by the Chiang Kai-shek régime would be to add financial insult to political injury.

9. The long-term indebtedness of the United Nations had arisen primarily because of certain peace-keeping operations which some Member States regarded as illegal and in violation of the Charter. It was thus a political problem which no amount of financial wizardry could solve. In his delegation's view, the only effective solution would be to organize an appeal to all Member States and to organizations and individuals throughout the world urging them to come to the aid of the United Nations with voluntary contributions. An appeal should also be made to those States which could afford to do so to cancel any obligations due them from the United Nations and to waive any claims they held against the Organization. Voluntary contributions could be raised in a number of ways, including organized observances in certain countries on United Nations Day in connexion with which contributions could be solicited and, possibly, the organization of a United Nations lottery.

10. In conclusion, he looked forward to the adoption by consensus of a draft resolution which would ensure prompt payment of dues to meet commitments as they arose, the solemn acceptance of a budgetary and financial structure and policy which would not admit of the revision or repudiation of obligations, and the elimination of the short-term deficit and long-term indebtedness of the United Nations through voluntary contributions from national, institutional and individual sources.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE SIXTH COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8796 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 87* (A/8708/ADD.18, A/C.5/1481)

11. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to document A/C.5/1481, in which the Secretary-General gave the statement of the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Sixth Committee (A/8796, para. 13) and indicated that the adoption of the draft would not entail any additional appropriations for 1973. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its report (A/8708/Add.18), had expressed the hope that the proposed conference of plenipotentiaries would be scheduled having regard to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV).

12. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) noted that the Sixth Committee's proposal involved no financial implications for 1973 and welcomed the Sixth Committee's efforts to keep the costs of the proposed international conference to a minimum in the future.

13. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to inform the General Assembly directly that, should it adopt the draft resolution of the Sixth Committee, no additional appropriations would be required for the financial year 1973, and that the administrative and financial implications for future years would be considered by the Committee at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly in the context of its examination of the budget estimates for the biennium 1974-1975.

It was so decided.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8879/ADD.1 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 38 (A/8708/ADD.19, A/C.5/1495)**

14. The CHAIRMAN noted that, in his statement (A/C.5/1495) on the administrative and financial impli-

* Representation of States in their relations with international organizations.

** The policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa:
(a) Reports of the Special Committee on *Apartheid*;
(b) Reports of the Secretary-General.

cations of the draft resolution regarding an international trade union conference against *apartheid* which was submitted by the Special Political Committee in its report (A/8879/Add.1, para. 6), the Secretary-General estimated that the cost of implementing the provisions of the draft resolution would amount to a total of \$8,300 under section 17, chapter VI, of the budget for 1973. In its related report (A/8708/Add.19), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions concurred with that estimate, while at the same time drawing the attention of the General Assembly to the question of the appropriateness of some of the payments involved.

15. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, although only small amounts were involved, the Advisory Committee had been somewhat concerned at the idea that United Nations funds should be used to defray travel and subsistence costs of persons who were not members of a United Nations organ or the Secretariat to enable them to attend a conference that was not being convened by the United Nations. However, if the General Assembly gave its authorization as requested in operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, the Advisory Committee agreed with the Secretary-General on the amount of the total requirement.

16. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said he was glad that the Advisory Committee had not rejected the Secretary-General's request for an appropriation of \$5,500 to cover travel and subsistence costs of representatives of trade union organizations from southern Africa. His delegation understood paragraph 4 of the Advisory Committee's report to mean that the draft resolution raised questions of principle and policy on which the Advisory Committee was not in a position to pass judgement; it was for the General Assembly to take a decision. The Advisory Committee could only discuss and approve the cost estimates submitted by the Secretary-General. He felt that the question of principle involved should not give rise to too much concern; the General Assembly had recognized that, if it was to go beyond a mere statement of principle of support for peoples under colonial and racial oppression who were fighting for their freedom, it must give material and financial support to those people, and that was in accordance with previous decisions taken by the Assembly. An amount of \$100,000 had, in fact, already been approved for the Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa.

17. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to inform the General Assembly directly that, should it adopt the draft resolution of the Special Political Committee, an additional appropriation of \$8,300 would be required under section 17, chapter VI, of the budget for the financial year 1973.

It was so decided.

18. Mr. DRUMMOND (South Africa) expressed his delegation's reservations concerning the legality, in

terms of the Charter, of the additional expenditure of \$8,300 under section 17, chapter VI, of the 1973 budget envisaged in the draft resolution submitted by the Special Political Committee. He believed that the Advisory Committee's observations in paragraph 4 of its report were pertinent; the Advisory Committee had questioned whether it was appropriate to defray from the United Nations budget the travel and subsistence costs of persons who were not members of a United Nations organ or the Secretariat to enable them to attend a conference that was not being convened by the United Nations. The amount of the appropriation involved might not be significant, but representatives should ponder the implications of the underlying principle, to which they were tacitly giving approval and which had correctly been drawn to their attention by the Advisory Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE FIRST COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8906 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 34* (A/8708/ADD.20, A/C.5/1489)

19. The CHAIRMAN noted that, in his statement (A/C.5/1489) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee in its report (A/8906, para. 11), the Secretary-General estimated that the cost of implementing the provisions of the draft would amount to \$25,500 under a new chapter in section 2 of the budget for 1973. In its related report (A/8708/Add.20), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions indicated that provisions of the draft resolution could be implemented without requiring additional appropriations for 1973.

20. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that because of some uncertainty as to what staff would be available the Advisory Committee had not been convinced that there was a need for additional appropriations to implement the proposal adopted by the First Committee. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee had recommended that the Secretary-General should endeavour so to rearrange the conference schedule as to dispense with the need for free-lance interpreters, or to meet any additional requirements out of the provision for section 3 of the budget. The Advisory Committee had also felt that the Fifth Committee might wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it approve the draft resolution of the First Committee, no additional appropriation would be required under the budget for 1973.

21. Mr. AMERASINGHE (Sri Lanka) recalled that his delegation had introduced the draft resolution in the First Committee and explained that the statement, in paragraph 2 of document A/C.5/1489, that the proposed *ad hoc* committee would hold a four-week session in New York from 4 to 29 June 1973 had been drawn up after consultation with him; thus, the assumption of the Secretary-General was correct. An attempt

* Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace: report of the Secretary-General.

had been made to keep expenditure and the length of the session to a minimum, and the Secretary-General had stated that the main expenditure would be for eight free-lance interpreters. He questioned the basis for the Advisory Committee's suggestion, in paragraph 4 of its report, that a shorter session might suffice. He was quite convinced that a session of that length would be necessary because the question was a complex and controversial one. He would, however, have no objection to the Advisory Committee's recommendation if an assurance was given that either the conference schedule could be rearranged or additional requirements could be met out of the provision for section 3 of the budget. He hoped that financial implications would not interfere with the smooth running of the session of the *ad hoc* committee.

22. Mr. COÏDAN (Director of the Budget Division) assured the representative of Sri Lanka that the *ad hoc* committee's session could be held in New York. It was very difficult for the Secretariat to know exactly what the conference schedule would be, since it depended on decisions of the General Assembly. However, if the Secretary-General had any difficulty with the conference schedule, appropriations would be transferred from other sections of the budget.

23. Mr. AMERASINGHE (Sri Lanka) thanked the Director of the Budget Division for his assurance and withdrew his objection to the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

24. Mr. CHERPOOT (India) expressed his support for the proposal adopted by the First Committee regarding the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. His delegation was in favour of stringent economy wherever possible and in the light of the assurance given by the Director of the Budget Division it had no objection to the Advisory Committee's recommendation that no additional appropriation should be required. It would also like to be assured, however, that once the *ad hoc* committee was established its functioning would not be impeded because of financial implications.

25. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to inform the General Assembly directly that, should it adopt the draft resolution of the First Committee, no additional appropriation would be required under the budget for 1973.

It was so decided.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION III SUBMITTED BY THE SECOND COMMITTEE IN DOCUMENT A/8963 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 12* (A/8708/ADD.21, A/C.5/1494)

26. The CHAIRMAN noted that, in his statement (A/C.5/1494) on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution III submitted by the Second Committee in its report (A/8963, para. 58), the Secretary-General had estimated that the cost of implementing the provisions of the draft resolution would

amount to \$56,000 under section 3, chapter III, of the budget for 1973. In its related report (A/8708/Add.21), the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions had indicated that the cost of implementing the provisions of the draft resolution would amount to \$30,000—a reduction of \$26,000 in the estimate proposed by the Secretary-General.

27. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said the Advisory Committee had felt that, since a considerable amount of material on the outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries already existed in the United Nations system, more work could be carried out within the United Nations itself, with less reliance on outside consultants. Accordingly, in paragraph 4 of its report the Advisory Committee had recommended an amount of \$30,000 for consultants.

28. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) endorsed the Advisory Committee's recommendation. The Secretary-General should rely much more heavily in such matters on the expertise available within the United Nations. That would mean that wider experience would be acquired by the Secretariat which would be useful in preparing and implementing programmes for developing countries. Since there was considerable material available on the subject, he hoped that the Secretary-General would see to what extent that material could be updated for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee. The proposal was an important one and it would be appropriate for the Secretariat to be much more deeply involved in it.

29. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should request the Rapporteur to inform the General Assembly directly that, should it adopt the draft resolution of the Second Committee, an additional appropriation of \$30,000 would be required under section 3, chapter III, of the budget for 1973.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 84

United Nations International School: report of the Secretary-General (continued) (A/8708/Add.16, A/8856, A/C.5/1483, A/C.5/L.1096, A/C.5/XXVII/CRP.12)**

30. Mr. TALIEH (Iran) introducing a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1096) on behalf of Austria, Iran, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as Colombia which had become a co-sponsor, said that the financial situation of the United Nations International School had been aggravated by a sharp decline in enrolment as a result of the steady increase in tuition fees, which in turn had been necessary in order to offset the budgetary deficit. Attendance at the school was now 10 per cent below its capacity. Some members of the Secretariat could no longer afford to send their children to the School because the education grant was not adequate; nor could some members of the diplomatic

* Report of the Economic and Social Council.

** Resumed from the 1528th meeting.

and consular corps. In order to break the vicious circle of budgetary deficit, resulting in increased fees, lower enrolment and a further deficit, the sponsors of the draft resolution had concluded that the education grant must be increased. Only 60 to 70 per cent of members of the Secretariat who received the education grant sent their children to the International School. If the proposal to increase the education grant was adopted, enrolment would expand, quite possibly by 1 January 1973. The sponsors had also been given to understand that, if the draft resolution was adopted, the Director of the International School would contact all members of the Secretariat individually to ask them whether they would like to send their children to the School. That move would coincide with the transfer of the School to its new premises. An improvement in the School's financial position would also mean that more bursaries could be given to children of diplomats who did not receive adequate education grants from their Governments.

31. The draft resolution appealed to Governments to continue to assist the International School; he would also like to appeal to all Member States which were not at present assisting the School to do so. Such a gesture might help to encourage the enrolment of children from the international community.

32. In paragraph 4 of its report (A/8708/Add.16), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions suggested that the proposed increase in the maximum of the education grant might induce other Secretariat members to enrol their children in the School. In paragraph 5 of the report, the Advisory Committee called attention to the fact that an increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500 had been one of the recommendations contained in the report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System,¹ which had always considered matters very carefully before making recommendations.

33. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted, so that the United Nations International School and its international character could be strengthened.

34. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had been in a somewhat unusual situation because, as stated in paragraph 2 of its report, proposals to change the education grant had usually been submitted to the Fifth Committee by the Secretary-General under the agenda item entitled "Personnel questions". In the present case, however, the proposal had originated in the Fifth Committee, and the Advisory Committee had been in a position to comment only on the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1096. Accordingly, the report was a factual one. In paragraph 3, the Advisory Committee stated its acceptance of the Secretary-General's estimate of \$145,500 (A/C.5/1483) as the implication for the United Nation's budget, but it also pointed out that the cost of imple-

menting the proposal would not be confined to the United Nations, but would be felt throughout the organizations in the United Nations common system; the cost for implementing the proposal throughout the system would, accordingly, be much greater than \$145,500. The annex to the Advisory Committee's report gave an analysis of the children of members of the Secretariat enrolled in the School and also the average teacher-student ratio. The Advisory Committee recalled in paragraph 5 of its report that an increase in the maximum of the education grant from \$1,000 to \$1,500 had been one of the recommendations of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System and suggested that the Special Committee's recommendations should be referred to the proposed international civil service commission.

35. Mr. BARODY (Saudi Arabia) said he hoped that draft resolution A/C.5/L.1096 would receive the unreserved support of all delegations. If adopted, it would increase the maximum of the education grant from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Even that measure might not be sufficient to make the School a solvent institution and it would therefore be appropriate to explore other ways of generating income. One solution might be to sound out persons in authority in New York City, such as the City Commissioner to the United Nations and officials of the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations, on whether there was a possibility of recovering the funds paid in real estate tax which went to support the public school system. About 20 to 22 per cent of the rent paid by diplomats and consular personnel who were not resident in embassies was used by the City to finance education. It might well be argued that, by sending their children to the United Nations International School and other private schools, parents were relieving the public school system of some of its burden and that it would not be unreasonable to ask the City to return to such parents the amount paid in school taxes. According to his calculations, approximately \$250,000 to \$350,000 could be generated in that way. It should be borne in mind that some \$150,000 to \$250,000 to which members of delegations were entitled in the form of rebates on City sales taxes were not claimed; perhaps that would be an inducement to the authorities to return the amount paid in school taxes.

36. Another method of obtaining additional resources would be to form a committee, presided over by the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, to generate income from external sources such as banks, corporations and philanthropists. In return, the United Nations should see that a larger percentage of the places at the School were set aside for Americans, and particularly for children of donors—a move that would have the advantage of bringing together children of the host country and of the international community. The Fifth Committee might also explore ways of obtaining extra resources within the United Nations itself—for example, income from items of interest to visitors to the Headquarters building. Parchment scrolls might be sold as mementoes of visits to the United Nations, and perhaps a postcard or lithograph could be designed to celebrate

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 28 (and corrigendum)*, vol I, para. 312.

the forthcoming unveiling of the mural to commemorate the World Youth Assembly. Lastly, Governments should be asked to pay more towards the tuition costs of children of delegation members.

37. Mr. LELLKI (Sweden) said that his country had followed the activities of the School since its inception. It was very pleased to learn that, after many years in temporary quarters, it was now to be moved to a permanent site where it would have a new building equipped with modern facilities.

38. The School had a unique international character, both in its curriculum and in the composition of the student body and teaching staff. It was also a truly integrated school where barriers of nationality, race, sex and religion did not exist. It was therefore a matter of great concern that it was in danger of losing its identity and becoming simply another private institution in the city. In that connexion, he recalled that the Secretary-General had referred to the School as "a hope for future generations and a factor of major importance in the recruitment and retention of qualified and efficient staff for the United Nations" (A/8856, para. 11). According to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on personnel problems in the United Nations prepared by Mr. Bertrand,² more than 70 per cent of United Nations professional staff members were over 40 years of age. One reason, according to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of UNIS, might be that school costs were preventing qualified young professionals from accepting posts in the United Nations. That was regrettable not only from the standpoint of the United Nations but also from that of Member States whose young nationals might be missing opportunities to benefit from the experience of service with the Organization.

39. According to the data submitted by the Board of Trustees of the School (A/C.5/XXVII/CRP.12), the average school fees had risen from \$1,078 in 1967/68 to \$1,780 in 1972/73. The United Nations had taken upon itself some of the burden of that increase and, as from 1 January 1969, had raised the maximum of the education grant to \$1,000. However, as that figure was based on school costs in 1965, the time had come for the new revision proposed in draft resolution A/C.5/L.1096, of which Sweden was a sponsor. It was hoped that the proposed measure would help to bring back the children who had had to leave the School because of the rise in tuition fees and also to solve the immediate financial problems of the School by eliminating the current operating deficit. The assistance that would thus be given to the School was a very small step; in addition the over-all financial situation and long-range relationship between the United Nations and the International School needed to be thoroughly reviewed.

40. It was a matter of disappointment that only 8 per cent of the students were children of members of delegations. It appeared that officials of some countries were leaving the foreign service early

because they could not provide a suitable education for their children. He himself was in the fortunate position of having a Government which paid the major part of tuition fees for children of employees in the Swedish diplomatic and consular services and he hoped that an increasing number of Governments would find it possible to help members of their missions in New York to benefit from the educational facilities of the United Nations International School.

41. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said his country had always felt that as an experiment in international education the School was eminently worth while and that the United Nations had every reason to give it firm moral and financial backing. The statement by the Secretary-General, in paragraph 9 of his report (A/8856), that an increase in the education grant was needed for United Nations staff if the erosion in the enrolment of children of United Nations staff members was to be avoided had received almost unanimous backing at the inter-agency and intergovernmental levels. It had now been taken up by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1096, a basic provision of which was that the maximum grant of \$1,000 should be increased to \$1,500. The question had arisen of the propriety of giving general application to that measure at a time when the immediate motivation stemmed from the plight of one specific institution. Concern was also being felt about the propriety of extracting one favourable element from an intergovernmental report before the report as a whole had been considered by the Committee. To a certain degree his delegation shared both those concerns. However, on balance it was prepared to concede that the circumstances were such as to require immediate action. There was a clear need for an adjustment in the education grant and there was no reason to feel paralysed by technicalities. For those reasons, his delegation was prepared to vote in favour of the draft resolution. Furthermore, if, as the Advisory Committee had suggested, the proposed increase in the maximum of the education grant were to induce other Secretariat members to enrol their children in the School, the proposal would have the desirable effect of halting the decline in enrolment.

42. The question of the over-all deficit situation of the School, however, would not be completely cleared up by the measure proposed in the draft resolution. Indeed, that situation would not be satisfactory until the Development Fund called for in General Assembly resolution 2612 (XXIV) had been constituted at an adequate level, which had been estimated at \$6.5 million. His delegation was appreciative of the effort made so far in that direction but nevertheless felt that the objectives laid down in that resolution should be reached without too much further delay. He therefore suggested that the draft resolution should be amended to reflect the General Assembly's concern by calling for a review of the long-term financial situation of the School at the Assembly's twenty-eighth session.

43. Mr. MARRÓN (Spain) said that his Government had always viewed with great sympathy the activities of the International School, which it felt were of impor-

² Document A/8454, of 5 October 1971.

tance in achieving the international objectives of the United Nations. While his delegation supported the aims of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1096, it had reservations concerning the effectiveness of the measures proposed. It considered that the purpose of any measures that were taken should be to revitalize the School and promote the attendance of children of diplomats and staff members. However, there was no indication that, if the education grant was increased, staff members would not continue to send their children to the same schools as at present; indeed, the proposal was unlikely to have much direct impact on attendance figures. Furthermore, as the Advisory Committee had pointed out in its report, the effects of such a decision would be felt throughout the United Nations system. Also, it appeared that only about \$25,000 of the estimated cost of the increase in the education grant of \$145,500 would benefit Secretariat members whose children attended the International School. His delegation felt that the cost involved was too high compared with the expected results and that it might be better to consider other, more restricted measures aimed merely at maintaining and increasing enrolment at the School.

44. Mr. NARASIMHAN (Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations International School)

said that the Board of Trustees had, together with delegations, considered a number of formulae before it had been decided that the only equitable solution was the one set forth in draft resolution A/C.5/L.1096.

45. He regretted that there was no proper breakdown of statistics for the School, but that would be remedied by the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly. He also pointed out that the estimated cost of increasing the education grant as it related to Secretariat members with children at the School would be \$78,000, and not \$25,000 as stated in document A/8708/Add.16, paragraph 4. It would be seen from the tables in document A/C.5/XXVII/CRP.12 that the somewhat dramatic drop in percentage terms in the enrolment of children of staff members had coincided with the rise in tuition fees. If it was decided not to increase the education grant, in all probability the enrolment rate for children of staff members would be still lower in 1973. Education costs had also risen for staff members working away from Headquarters and they too should receive the benefit of larger education grants. The proposal in draft resolution A/C.5/L.1096 had the full support of the executive heads of the agencies.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.