

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records



**FIFTH COMMITTEE, 1553rd
MEETING**

Thursday, 14 December 1972,
at 8.20 p.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mr. Motoo OGISO (Japan).

AGENDA ITEM 73

Budget estimates for the financial year 1973 (continued)
(for the earlier documentation, see 1541st meeting; A/8708/Add.17 and 22, A/C.5/1490 and Corr.1, A/C.5/L.1100, A/C.5/L.1101)

First reading (continued)

INCOME SECTION 4. REVENUE-PRODUCING ACTIVITIES (concluded) (A/8706, A/8708 AND CORR.1 AND ADD.22, A/C.5/1479, A/C.5/L.1101, A/C.5/XXVII/CRP.2)

1. Mr. SILVEIRA DA MOTA (Brazil) expressed his appreciation of the succinct account given in the Secretary-General's very informative report contained in document A/C.5/1479. He hoped the Secretary-General would keep under review any suggestion that might result in the introduction of new activities on the lines of those described in paragraphs 37 to 48 of the report. Indeed, such a course had been advocated by the Fifth Committee some years previously. His delegation agreed with the comments and observations in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8708/Add.22), which he expected the Secretariat would take into account.

2. His delegation had no objection to the study proposed by Ghana on a world-wide lottery (A/C.5/XXVII/CRP.2) being undertaken. Nevertheless, he was fully in sympathy with the Advisory Committee's proviso contained in paragraph 11 of its report. It would seem to be logical and prudent to ascertain whether the Governments of Member States would be willing to co-operate and to convert the proceeds of the local sale of tickets into convertible currency. He understood that the representative of Ghana would have no objection to the Secretariat seeking such co-operation.

3. Draft resolution A/C.5/L.1101 presented no problems for his delegation. At the previous meeting the representative of the Philippines had made a very good case for the draft resolution, which was in keeping with the observations made by the Advisory Committee and the Secretary-General. He wondered, however, whether a resolution was really necessary. The two operative paragraphs of the text were merely added exhortation and did not ask for specific action. It would be more in keeping with the internal nature of the document to make it a paragraph of the Committee's report, since it expressed in essence an opinion of the Committee.

4. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that the aim of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1101 was stated in operative paragraph 2, which was directed particularly at the United Nations Visitors' Service. Despite the annual deficit of about \$250,000 mentioned by the Advisory Committee, and the suggestion that the guides might perhaps be engaged on a part-time basis and their number reduced, his delegation felt that the Visitors' Service was an area in which the United Nations should expand rather than restrict its very important activities. Much of the public's disaffection with the United Nations was the result of a lack of communication and proper understanding of the Organization's activities. That lacuna could be filled very effectively by the guides, who should be trained to give not only facts and figures about the United Nations but also some insight into its activities with greater focus on its achievements. Reinforcement of the Visitors' Service would be in the Organization's long-term interest and might well result in additional revenue.

5. His delegation agreed with the views on United Nations publications expressed by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania at the previous meeting. Nevertheless, he felt that the Organization should publish books that could become school and university textbooks. They could be prepared by paid specialists with royalties accruing to the United Nations.

6. The idea of an international lottery, which had been actively promoted by the representative of Ghana, should be given a trial, although, in the final analysis, income from the lottery might not be very substantial. His delegation agreed that the Secretary-General should take the matter up with Governments with a view to ascertaining how sales revenue from the lottery might be transferred to the United Nations account in New York. The matter was a very complex one because the payment for the lottery tickets, which would be sold in various countries, would have to be made in convertible currencies; that might not be an easy task. It would be easier if the United Nations had a system for collecting sales revenue in each country for later use as necessary. His delegation felt that the representative of Ghana had only envisaged countries with easily convertible currencies, particularly the United States of America and Canada.

7. The special United Nations fund proposed by the representative of Liberia at the 2051st plenary meeting of the General Assembly seemed to be most appropriate to the United States. In the United States 10 cents might seem an insignificant amount, but when converted into soft currencies it would be beyond the

means of millions of people who did not even know what the United Nations was doing for them. To expect each and every citizen of the world to contribute 10 cents to the special fund was, to say the least, unrealistic. From time to time appeals had been made to Governments to make voluntary contributions to help the United Nations out of its precarious financial situation; the response had not been encouraging. The idea of the special fund would meet with the same kind of response. As the Advisory Committee had stated, contributions to the fund would be marginal in relation to the total financial need of the United Nations and might not be worth pursuing.

8. In 1970, the Fifth Committee had been given an assurance that an amicable settlement on the operation of the Club of the United Nations Correspondents Association had been reached between the President of the Club and Secretariat officials. It appeared, nevertheless, that the matter was still not settled. He hoped that a workable solution to the problem would be found. His delegation had been somewhat surprised to learn from the statement made by the representative of Norway at the previous meeting that the Club was only notified of its deficit but was not shown its accounts. There was no harm in showing the accounts to the President of the Club or his authorized representative; that step would remove the existing misunderstanding.

9. Mr. MAHMASSANI (Lebanon) said, in reply to the point raised by the representative of Brazil, that after discussing the matter with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1100, he felt that the idea contained in the text to build up the image of the Organization—merited a draft resolution. In view of the aims and ideals it expressed, he appealed to the Committee to adopt it unanimously if possible.

10. Mr. CHERPOOT (India) said the expected increase of about \$800,000 in revenue from revenue-producing activities was reasonably satisfactory, but pointed out that the 1971 figure was only about half that for 1970. While 1970 had been a special year, the 1972 figures represented only a marginal increase over those for 1969. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that revenue-producing activities should not only be considered a source of income, although any profit that might be realized would be welcome.

11. He complimented the United Nations Postal Administration for its work; he was glad that a plan had been worked out to increase sales.

12. Although the catering services were run mainly for the benefit of delegations and the staff of the Secretariat, he wondered why they should be run at such a substantial loss. The Secretary-General's report gave no indication why such a deficit was expected for 1972. Although the catering services need not be run at a profit, they should be made self-supporting. He agreed with the representatives of Belgium and Norway that the Secretary-General should try to find some way to ensure that the UNCA Club was reserved as a special

area for the press. Although some way must be worked out to correct the large deficit of the catering services, the UNCA Club was a special case and deserved special consideration.

13. His delegation sympathized with the three ideas put forward for new revenue-producing activities by the representatives of Ghana, Italy and Liberia. Nevertheless, like the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, he felt that there was a question of principle involved which required careful study. The Committee should consider whether it was desirable for the United Nations to seek income from any source and by any means regardless of the effect on the Organization's dignity and its image as the hope of the world for the maintenance of peace and for economic and social progress. He hoped the Secretary-General would be able to find a solution to the problem of publications and the decline in the number of visitors.

14. His delegation whole-heartedly endorsed the opinion expressed in paragraph 15 of the Advisory Committee's report that the bulk of the Organization's expenditure would continue to be met from the assessed contributions of Member States.

15. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/L.1101 by consensus.

16. Mr. LOURENÇO (Portugal) said that, although his delegation would not insist on a vote, it felt that the character of the work of the Office of Public Information was of a controversial nature.

17. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said he felt that the Office of Public Information was not a controversial department.

Draft resolution A/C.5/L.1101 was adopted without objection.

18. In reply to a question from the CHAIRMAN, Mr. CLELAND (Ghana) said that he accepted the addition of the words "and be subject to the provisions of paragraph 11 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8708/Add.22)" at the end of the draft paragraph (A/C.5/XXVII/CRP.2) he had proposed for inclusion in the report of the Committee.

19. Mr. RODRÍGUEZ (Cuba) requested that the draft paragraph should be put to a vote.

20. Mr. BARG (Libya) said that his delegation would abstain in the voting because of religious principles.

The draft paragraph contained in document A/C.5/XXVII/CRP.2, as orally amended, was adopted by 42 votes to 2, with 25 abstentions.

21. Mr. RODRÍGUEZ (Cuba), in explanation of vote, said that his delegation had no wish to prejudice the intention of the representative of Ghana in his effort to find formulas to resolve the financial situation and

increase the resources of the United Nations. Nevertheless, his delegation had been unable to support the draft paragraph for reasons of principle: his Government felt that the approach proposed did not offer an acceptable solution.

22. Mr. A-YED (Democratic Yemen) said that his delegation had abstained in the voting for religious reasons.

23. Mr. DIPP GÓMEZ (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation had voted against the draft paragraph because lotteries should only be held for charitable purposes. Moreover, it considered that the United Nations should not promote or encourage gambling.

24. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that, although his delegation respected religious sentiments, it had voted in favour of the inclusion of the paragraph because all that was asked for at the present juncture was a study.

25. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/1479) and of the Advisory Committee (A/8708/Add.22).

It was so decided.

An estimate in the amount of \$3,021,300 under income section 4 was approved on first reading.

SECTION 5. TRAVEL OF STAFF (A/8706, A/8708 AND CORR.1 AND ADD.2, A/C.5/1436)

REPORT OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT ON THE USE OF TRAVEL FUNDS IN THE UNITED NATIONS (A/8900 AND ADD.1 AND 2)

26. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up in first reading section 5 and to consider at the same time the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the use of travel funds in the United Nations (see A/8900), as well as the comments of the Secretary-General on the subject (see A/8900/Add.1) and the report of the Advisory Committee (A/8900/Add.2). In his initial estimates for 1973 (A/8706), the Secretary-General had proposed an amount of \$2,889,500 for section 5. In his report (A/C.5/1436) on the revised estimates resulting from the decisions of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General had submitted further requirements amounting to \$4,800. The total thus proposed by the Secretary-General was \$2,894,300.

27. In its first report (A/8708 and Corr.1) on the budget estimates for 1973, the Advisory Committee had recommended an appropriation for section 5 of \$2,639,500, which was a reduction of \$250,000 in the Secretary-General's initial estimate. In its report (A/8708/Add.2) on the revised estimates, the Advisory Committee concurred with the additional estimate of \$4,800 proposed by the Secretary-General. Finally, in paragraph 16 of its report on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, the Advisory Committee recom-

mended a reduction of \$90,000 in the appropriations related to travel under sections 5, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the budget for 1973. It was the understanding of the Chair that, of the total proposed reduction of \$90,000, section 5 would account for \$75,000. The total amount recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 5 for 1973, therefore, was \$2,554,300.

28. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the initial estimate for section 5 was under \$2.9 million. However, that excluded travel of staff attached to UNCTAD, UNIDO, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, travel of staff on special missions, and so on. With the addition of those provisions, the total of the initial estimates for travel of staff amounted to \$4.3 million—comprising \$1.9 million for travel on official business and \$2.4 million for travel on home leave. The Advisory Committee had recommended over-all reductions of about 12.5 per cent, the reasons for which could be found in paragraphs 5-10, 5-13, 5-14 and 5-15 of its first report.

29. However, events had been overtaken by the report of the Joint Inspection Unit. There was no real inconsistency between the Advisory Committee's recommendations and the views expressed in the Unit's report: the inspector had carried out a more wide-ranging review than the Advisory Committee could undertake. His recommendations—which were very clear—had been dealt with at some length in the Advisory Committee's report (A/8900/Add.2).

30. He would divide the inspector's recommendations into several main groups, but first wished to deal separately with recommendation I, which stood on its own: it was a proposal for a new formula which, as stated in paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report, would establish a link between the reimbursement of travel expenses to representatives attending General Assembly sessions and their countries' rates of assessment. However, for reasons set out in that paragraph, the Advisory Committee felt it could not support that recommendation.

31. The first main group of recommendations dealt with class of travel. The inspector recommended that reimbursement of travel claims to representatives of Member States, members of subsidiary bodies and individuals serving in a personal capacity, and staff, should be limited in almost all cases to the cost of air economy fares, with the exception of the Secretary-General and staff accompanying him. In their reports, both the inspector and the Advisory Committee recalled the decision taken by the General Assembly in 1966 reversing its earlier decision and reintroducing the entitlement to first-class travel. The Advisory Committee therefore hesitated to endorse the inspector's recommendation; it felt that further study was needed, particularly since the question could not be divorced from what was happening in the rest of the United Nations system. It therefore suggested that it would be appropriate for the question of standards of staff travel to be considered by ACC and that, as regards representatives of Member States and individuals, the

Advisory Committee would consider the matter in the context of its next report to the General Assembly on administrative and budgetary co-ordination.

32. The second group of recommendations related to entitlement to travel for members of Committees, the General Assembly and subsidiary bodies. As the inspector had pointed out, there appeared to be some inconsistencies but, since they were the outcome of past General Assembly decisions, the Advisory Committee thought that it would be better to review those recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit concurrently with its review of travel standards in its next report on administrative and budgetary co-ordination.

33. In his next group of recommendations, which related to the volume of travel, the inspector had been very critical. The Advisory Committee felt that the Secretary-General had dismissed the criticism too lightly. It was not suggested that the Secretary-General should have pursued "in public" all the individual examples to which the inspector referred, but it was still rather surprising that he had dismissed that criticism in about 10 lines in his comments. The Advisory Committee would have liked a clearer indication that those matters were being pursued actively by the Secretary-General internally. Perhaps the representative of the Secretary-General could give that assurance later in the meeting. The Secretary-General had certainly given his assurance that, in future, similar cases were less likely to occur. The Advisory Committee, for its part, would keep the matter under consideration in the future, particularly as regards official travel. However, it did not feel able to endorse the recommendation that, every two years, the Secretary-General should present the General Assembly with a report providing detailed information on staff travel. That was more a matter for management, and the Advisory Committee was free to call for information of that kind whenever necessary. Regarding the appropriations for travel the Advisory Committee hoped that it would be possible to achieve the inspector's objectives without resort to quite such substantial reductions or "freezes" as he had proposed.

34. With regard to the remaining staff travel entitlement, the Advisory Committee fully shared the inspector's recommendation that reimbursement to staff wishing to travel on home leave by sea should be limited to the cost of air economy class. It recommended that the present entitlement to travel by sea should be discontinued as from January 1973. That would result in a reduction, which the Advisory Committee had recommended in the budget estimates for 1973, of \$90,000. However, the Advisory Committee noted that the Secretary-General referred in paragraph 48 of his comments to the need for consultation with the elected staff representatives. It would be recalled that the Advisory Committee had suggested as early as 1971 that the matter should be reviewed. Furthermore, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit had been available for several months. Hence, there had been time for consultation with the staff—particularly when contrasted with the very short time needed for consultations connected with the increase in the education grant.

35. In the recommendation which related to the refund of excess baggage charges, it was not suggested that the practice should be abolished: it would still be necessary in certain cases. However, the Advisory Committee recommended a reduction of \$100,000 in the estimates to reflect the probability that many excess baggage entitlements would not be exercised.

36. While some of the reactions of the Advisory Committee to the inspector's recommendations might seem somewhat negative, he felt sure that those recommendations would have a very real impact on future travel authorization. The Advisory Committee for its part would certainly review future requests with a much more critical eye.

37. Mr. DAVIDSON (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management), commenting on the statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General appeared to have paid insufficient attention to recommendations 3 to 7, contained in chapter VII of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, relating to staff travel on missions, said that in the last year controls over staff travel had been considerably improved and there was no doubt that expenditure had been reduced. The situation would further improve when programme budgeting was introduced.

38. With regard to the inspector's recommendation concerning home leave, it had been pointed out in paragraph 48 of the Secretary-General's comments that, under chapter VIII of the Staff Rules, the Secretary-General was required to consult the elected representatives of the staff in regard to any changes in their conditions of service. Such consultations were not intended to be purely *pro forma* and, although they had begun, they were not yet completed. Finally, he pointed out that if the staff entitlement to travel by sea was terminated abruptly on 1 January 1973, the 211 persons who had already applied in accordance with normal procedure for permission to do so would be inconvenienced.

39. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that in his delegation's view the inspector's recommended new formula which would establish a link between the reimbursement of travel expenses to representatives attending General Assembly sessions and their countries' rates of assessment was unacceptable. With regard to the recommendation that reimbursement of travel claims to representatives of Member States should be limited to the cost of air economy fares, his delegation was prepared to go along with the view of the Advisory Committee that action should be deferred until the question had been studied further. Moreover, since travel appropriations would soon be related to the needs of the work programme, the proposal that a report on staff travel should be submitted every two years seemed rather superfluous. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee's views on recommendations 4 and 5 of the Joint Inspection Unit relating to the need to limit attendance of staff at meetings and seminars. Concerning the proposed cuts in appropriations for staff travel made in recommendations 6 and 7, since the Advisory Committee had already

recommended a 12 per cent reduction, no further reduction should be considered. Moreover, in view of the fact that programme budgeting was expected to start in 1974, the proposed arbitrary cuts did not seem to be in the best interests of the Organization. With respect to recommendation 8, that travel reimbursements of staff should be limited to the cost of economy class, except for the Secretary-General and those accompanying him, his delegation agreed that uniform standards should be applied throughout the United Nations system. However, in view of what the Under-Secretary-General had said concerning travel by sea in 1973, it appeared reasonable to defer a decision on the matter to the following year. Concerning recommendation 9, relating to the refund of excess baggage charges, his delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that the practice should not be discontinued. Finally, with respect to recommendation 10 concerning the level of appropriations for travel, he agreed with the Advisory Committee. Since the work programme would determine the level of travel as of 1974, the question could be re-examined at that time.

40. Mr. TARDOS (Hungary), referring to paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee asked what other organizations specifically limited reimbursement of home leave travel expenses to the cost of an economy air ticket.

41. Mr. MNGOLA (Kenya) said he was pleased to hear that the Advisory Committee felt that the question of travel reimbursement required further study. A distinction should be made between persons travelling long distances and those travelling short distances and between the reimbursement of heads of delegations and others.

42. Mr. DAVIDSON (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) replied that he had no information other than that contained in paragraphs 119 to 123 of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit.

43. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation agreed with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and understood the position explained by the Under-Secretary-General concerning the termination of the entitlement to travel on home leave by sea. He wondered, however, whether the staff felt that it would be improper to change the existing rules at all or whether it merely felt that to terminate the existing entitlement as of January 1973 would cause hardship. In the latter case his delegation could agree to make the termination effective in 1974. However, in the former case it would not be able to accept the objection.

44. Mr. OUÉDRAOGO (Upper Volta) wondered what class of accommodation persons travelling by sea would be given, since the travel allowance would be based on the price of an economy air ticket.

45. Mr. BENNET (New Zealand) said that in principle his delegation would agree with the Advisory Committee concerning the need to change the staff entitle-

ment to travel on home leave by sea. The only obstacle to taking a decision was whether the Advisory Committee felt that the staff consultation procedures provided for under chapter VIII of the Staff Rules had been fully implemented.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT A/C.5/1480 CONCERNING AGENDA ITEM 80* (A/8708/ADD.26, A/C.5/1488)

46. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the question of the administrative and financial implications of the recommendations of the Sixth Committee on legal publications (see A/C.5/1480). In his statement (A/C.5/1488), the Secretary-General estimated that the cost of implementing those recommendations would amount to \$340,000 under section 3, and \$98,000 under section 11, making a total of \$438,000 in the budget estimates for 1973. In its related report (A/8708/Add.26), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended an additional appropriation of \$218,800 which was a reduction of \$219,200 in the estimate proposed by the Secretary-General.

47. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the subject was a little confused, since matters relating to the *Treaty Series* had become "entangled" with the Joint Inspection Unit report on recurrent publications.¹ The Advisory Committee had therefore sought in its report to disentangle the two sets of financial implications. It recommended a net appropriation—after a reduction with regard to the United Nations *Juridical Yearbook*—of \$218,800, i.e. \$175,000 under section 3 and \$43,800 under section 11.

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for a total additional appropriation of \$218,800 for 1973 was approved by 69 votes to 7, with 1 abstention.

48. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved an additional amount of \$30,000 under income section 1 for 1973.

It was so decided.

49. The CHAIRMAN further proposed that, if there was no objection, the Committee should request the Rapporteur to include in its report on agenda item 80 the draft resolution recommended by the Sixth Committee (see A/C.5/1480, para. 7).

It was so decided.

50. Mr. GRODSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation acknowledged the

* Publications and documentation of the United Nations:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General;

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

¹ Document A/8362, of 20 August 1971.

importance of the *Treaty Series* but considered that, in view of the financial implications, it was not a good idea to expand the publication of the *Juridical Yearbook*. It would have been more logical to limit publication of the *Yearbook* to the previous level or to expand the programme from within the existing resources; alternatively, expansion of the programme could have been deferred until the financial situation improved. His delegation had therefore been unable to support the additional appropriations for the *Treaty Series*.

AGENDA ITEM 83

United Nations salary system: report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System (*continued*)* (for the documentation, see 1550th meeting)

51. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) announced that, after discussion with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1099, the representative of India had withdrawn the amendments proposed (1550th meeting) with the exception of his proposal to replace the words "through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions" in operative paragraph 3 by the words "together with the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions", which the sponsors had accepted. The sponsors had been unable to accept the amendments submitted by the representative of Hungary (*ibid.*). They had been able to satisfy the representative of Pakistan that consultations with staff representatives would take place; Pakistan had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

52. Mr. CHERPOOT (India) expressed his delegation's gratitude to the sponsors of the draft resolution for the spirit of co-operation they had shown when considering its proposals and for their acceptance of one of them. The proposals had been made with the intention of improving and strengthening the draft resolution; his delegation did not intend to pursue them any further. It understood that the consultations mentioned in operative paragraph 4 would include Member States, while the manner in which they were to be held would be left to the Secretary-General. He also understood that the new commission would have the confidence of Member States, of the executive heads of United Nations bodies and of staff members.

53. Mr. OUÉDRAOGO (Upper Volta) said he felt that the number of members of the international civil service commission should be fixed more precisely than was the case in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution. He hoped the "other related documentation" mentioned in paragraph 5 would include the opinions expressed in the Fifth Committee at the twenty-seventh session; a number of delegations had made pertinent comments that should be taken into account by the commission.

54. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, without wishing to detract from the importance of the salary review question, his delegation felt that

the current year was not the time for making detailed comments on the report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System (A/8728 and Corr.1) and that the best course would have been simply to endorse the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/8914). However, a draft resolution (A/C.5/L.1099) had been carefully prepared on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the main object being to establish an international civil service commission. The draft resolution was the culmination of a long process of discussion going back over many years. He hoped that the Secretary-General and other members of ACC would be able to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session a draft statute for the proposed commission and an outline of the principles on which the functioning of the new body would be based.

55. He wished to emphasize, as the Advisory Committee had done, the need for a commission that would command the confidence of the Governments of member States, the executive heads and the staff, and that it must therefore be free from the political influences that would be brought to bear if an intergovernmental body were to be established, as recommended by the Special Committee. His delegation therefore welcomed the Advisory Committee's proposal that the new body should be constituted by appointment rather than by election through the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee's proposal that it should itself be involved in the establishment of the commission was also appropriate, since it would ensure that the Advisory Committee's views on the matter were known as early as possible. His delegation therefore fully supported draft resolution A/C.5/L.1099. He was gratified that, in the debate on the Special Committee's report, it had been possible to avoid the acrimonious exchanges that could have taken place if the Fifth Committee had attempted to discuss the substantive proposals and recommendations of the Special Committee. He wished to state categorically that the course which the Fifth Committee was taking would ensure that the United Nations common system would be preserved. The General Assembly must take decisions whereby it would retain its pre-eminent position as a guiding legislative organ with regard to salaries and personnel matters within the United Nations system. The debate should therefore be confined to the proposal to establish a new commission. At the twenty-eighth session, there would be an opportunity to consider at greater length the whole question of the functions, powers and terms of reference of the commission.

56. Mr. GONTHA (Indonesia) thanked the representatives of the Upper Volta and of the United Republic of Tanzania for their encouraging comments on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1099. As to the number of commissioners, the sponsors had tentatively suggested 13, without being too insistent on that number.

57. Mr. MNGOLA (Kenya) said that, as a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.5/L.1099, his delegation hoped that the draft would receive general support. As to the period of service of the commissioners, his delega-

* Resumed from the 1551st meeting.

tion felt that they should serve on a part-time basis only.

58. Mr. DE BELDER (Belgium) said in reply to the representative of the Upper Volta that the sponsors would gladly accept his suggestion that views expressed in the Fifth Committee should also be transmitted to the new commission. The words "other related documentation" in operative paragraph 5 of the draft would make that possible.

59. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) pointed out that the Indian amendment to draft resolution A/C.5/L.1099—which would replace the words "through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions" in operative paragraph 3 by the words "together with the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions"—raised a constitutional problem, since the provisions of the draft resolution would in effect have the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit the Advisory Committee's report. The Advisory Committee did not report to the Secretary-General but to the General Assembly. He suggested that other wording should be found to give effect to the same idea.

60. Mr. FAROOQ (Pakistan) asked the Chairman of the Advisory Committee whether it would not be better to delete the reference to the comments of the Advisory Committee, since the need for them was obvious.

61. Mr. RHODES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) replied that it was not the function of the Advisory Committee or its Chairman to suggest amendments to draft resolutions submitted by Member States. He merely wished to point out that, as worded, the draft raised a constitutional difficulty.

62. Mr. MSELLE (United Republic of Tanzania) said it would not be correct for the General Assembly to take a position on the statute and terms of reference of the new commission without having the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. He agreed with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee that the wording of operative paragraph 3, as amended, implied that the Advisory Committee would submit its comments to the General Assembly via the Secretary-General. Such a procedure would hardly be appropriate.

63. Mr. VAN DER GOOT (Netherlands) said the sponsors were grateful to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for having pointed out the constitutional implications of the words in question. He said the sponsors would consult and try to agree on an acceptable wording of paragraph 3.

64. Mr. CHERPOOT (India) said that, in view of the constitutional difficulty that would be raised by his proposed amendment to paragraph 3, he withdrew it.

65. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on draft resolution A/C.5/L.1099.

The draft resolution was adopted by 64 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

66. Mr. KULAZHENKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), explaining his vote, said that his delegation had abstained because the Fifth Committee should not have taken a decision to transmit the report of the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System to the not yet established international civil service commission without considering the content of the report. In so doing, it had ignored the recommendations of the Special Committee which were designed to bring order and economy to the salary system and had deferred indefinitely a decision on the whole complex of questions relating to the international civil service, thus paving the way for a future unjustified salary increase for specialists who were already too highly paid. The provisions in the draft resolution relating to the appointment of the commissioners were unsatisfactory since they would mean that the Secretariat would in fact be chiefly responsible for such appointments. To be truly impartial, such a commission would have to be composed of experts designated by Governments of Member States on the basis of wide geographical representation. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that the Special Committee's mandate should be extended for another year so that it might make preparations for the future commission.

67. Mr. STEENBERGER (Denmark) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because, with one important exception, the provisions of the draft were entirely consistent with its views. His delegation felt that no system relating to the conditions of service could be viable unless it gave employees the right to participate in the settlement of their problems, and, although operative paragraph 3 was no doubt designed to cover that point, the wording, in his view, was ambiguous. Moreover, even if further study might be necessary, the matter should not be placed low on the list of priorities.

68. Mr. A-YED (Democratic Yemen) said that his delegation had abstained in the voting because it was not familiar with the background of the question.

69. Mr. REFSHAL (Norway) said that he was entirely in agreement with the observations of the representative of Denmark. He hoped that the new commission would take the views of the staff into consideration at all times.

70. Mr. COGAN (Ireland) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the sentiments expressed by the representative of Denmark.

The meeting rose at 10.40 p.m.