

United Nations
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ASSEMBLY**

TENTH SESSION
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**FIFTH COMMITTEE, 486th
MEETING**

**Tuesday, 4 October 1955,
at 3.15 p.m.**

New York

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Chairman: Mr. Hans ENGEN (Norway).

Opening Remarks by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Committee for the honour it had done his country and the confidence placed in him personally in his election as Chairman. The Fifth Committee once more had a heavy agenda and additional questions would undoubtedly be referred to it by the other Assembly Committees. He was confident, however, that by diligent work the Committee would be able to complete its agenda in the required time. Its work would as usual be greatly facilitated by the fact that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had made a competent study of many of the items on the agenda. On behalf of the Fifth Committee, he thanked the Advisory Committee.

Election of the Vice-Chairman

2. Mr. THERON (Union of South Africa) nominated Mr. Khalaf (Iraq), who, by reason of his long years of experience in administrative and financial questions, seemed eminently qualified for the office of Vice-Chairman.

3. Mr. ASHA (Syria) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Khalaf (Iraq) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

4. Mr. KHALAF (Iraq) thanked the representatives of the Union of South Africa and Syria, as also the other members of the Committee, for the honour they had bestowed upon him and his country. He would do his utmost to justify the Committee's confidence in him.

Election of the Rapporteur

5. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) nominated Mr. Méndez (Philippines) for the office of Rapporteur.

6. Mr. DE BARROS (Brazil) seconded the nomination.

Mr. Méndez (Philippines) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

7. Mr. MENDEZ (Philippines) thanked the Committee for the honour done to his country and to himself. He would do his best to acquit himself well of his task.

8. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee should follow its customary procedure and invite Mr. Aghnides, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to participate freely in all its debates.

It was so decided.

9. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) thanked the Fifth Committee on behalf of the Advisory Committee.

Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.5/626)

10. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the letter from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, containing the list of agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/626).

11. He suggested that consideration of item 12 [49*], Report of the Special Committee on Review of Administrative Tribunal Judgements, should begin on Monday, 17 October 1955. The report of the Special Committee (A/2909) had been distributed in June and most members of the Committee would probably be ready to start discussing the question within two weeks. Item 11 [42*], Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: report of the Committee on Contributions, might be taken up on Monday, 31 October. In November, the Committee could devote most of its time to considering item 6 [38*], Budget estimates for the financial year 1956, and item 7 [47*], Organization of the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General.

12. If the Committee agreed to those proposals, the agenda as set out in document A/C.5/626 could be taken in the following order: during the first part of the session the Committee would consider items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 12; towards the middle of the session, it would consider items 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13, while the last part of the session would be devoted to items 14 to 18 and to the second reading of the budget.

13. There were several other questions which could be considered at the same time as the budget estimates, such as revenue-producing activities, reimbursement for services furnished to specialized agencies, advertisements in United Nations publications, etc. The Committee would decide in due course when to consider them.

14. Furthermore, in order to avoid the Committee's being overburdened with work towards the middle of the session, it might perhaps be advisable to start as soon as possible on the first reading of those sections of the budget which were certain not to be revised during the session or which were not affected by the Secretary-General's proposals on the reorganization of the Secretariat. During the general debate on the budget, delegations would be at liberty to refer also to the administration of the Secretariat and the measures which had been taken in that field since the last Assembly. If the Committee had no objection, the general debate on administrative and budgetary questions and

* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

the first reading of the aforementioned sections of the budget could open on Monday, 10 October.

15. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) requested that the Committee should examine item 18 [54*] well before the close of the session, since it would doubtless have to ask the opinion of the Sixth Committee on that item.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that the Danish representative's request would be complied with.

17. Mr. VENKATARAMAN (India) hoped that the Committee would not deal with item 12 [49*], before 31 October. Furthermore, it would be logical to take up the organization of the Secretariat before the budget estimates for 1956.

* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

18. Mr. POWERS (Secretary of the Committee) pointed out that there were many sections of the budget which would not be affected by the proposals concerning the organization of the Secretariat. Those were the sections to which the Chairman's proposal referred.

19. Lord FAIRFAX (United Kingdom), Mr. CUTTS (Australia), and Mr. BLANCO (Cuba) agreed to the date suggested by the Chairman for the consideration of item 12 [49*].

20. Mr. MERROW (United States of America) endorsed all the Chairman's suggestions for the organization of the Committee's work.

The order of business proposed by the Chairman was adopted.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.