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Chairman: Mr. Hans ENGEN (Norway).

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Khalaf (Iraq),
Vice-Chairman, took the chair.*

AGENDA ITEM 38

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1956
(A/2904 and Add.1, A/2921) (*continued*)**

General discussion (*continued*)

1. Mr. GREZ (Chile) congratulated the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on the quality of the documents they had submitted to the Fifth Committee. He was gratified to find that their efforts to reorganize the Secretariat along sound economic lines, without any loss in efficiency, had resulted in a reduction of \$680,000 in the estimates for 1956.
2. The Secretary-General had rightly paid special attention to the position of staff members rendered redundant as a result of his reorganization. If, as suggested in paragraph 8 of the foreword to the budget estimates (A/2904), the Secretary-General submitted a request for a supplementary appropriation to meet that problem, the Chilean delegation trusted that it would receive sympathetic consideration. He noted from the same paragraph of the foreword that the Secretary-General hoped the problem would have been solved by the end of 1955.
3. Chile had consistently favoured the establishment and development of regional economic commissions, which promoted economic and social progress in the under-developed countries and thus contributed to world peace. While it was wholeheartedly in favour of economy, it would oppose any attempt to secure it at the expense of those commissions. He was glad to note that the Secretary-General appreciated the need to provide the Commissions with sufficient funds for their valuable activities and had requested a higher appropriation than in 1955 for all three.
4. His delegation reserved the right to state its views on the individual sections of the estimates at the appropriate time.
5. Lord FAIRFAX (United Kingdom), after paying tribute to the work of the Secretary-General and his staff, said that his delegation shared the view expressed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 11 of the foreword to the budget estimates that the object of the reorganization was not primarily economy but greater efficiency. It wished to congratulate the Secretary-General on the results he had so far obtained and hoped

that the proposals that would be based on his survey of the overseas and other offices of the United Nations would provide for a streamlining similar to that achieved at Headquarters.

6. In its excellent report on the budget estimates (A/2921), the Advisory Committee had noted a progressive improvement in the work and organization of the Secretariat and a greater flexibility in the use of the staff, which was evidence of the Secretary-General's continuing concern for the good administration of the Organization and of the able support he was receiving from his staff.

7. His delegation had noted the Advisory Committee's warning that the cost of supplementary items of expenditure might be substantial. Among the items in respect of which supplementary estimates might be submitted were the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, the estimated cost of which was in the region of \$1,500,000. His delegation would be the last to question the value of holding such a conference, which had amply demonstrated the advantages to be gained from the free exchange of information about atomic energy. The fact that the United Nations had been able to undertake the organization of the Conference was proof of its ability to adjust itself to new tasks. But the need for such adaptability could not be met unless there was a constant and rigorous pruning of activities that had lost their importance.

8. In his foreword to the budget estimates for 1956, the Secretary-General had referred to the need for a testing period after his reorganization was completed. The United Kingdom delegation agreed that such a period was necessary and hoped that it would be possible to achieve a measure of administrative and budgetary stability, for which delegations had long been pressing.

9. Unfortunately his delegation could not express a similar satisfaction with the budgets of the specialized agencies, seven of which showed increases representing a total increase of nearly \$3,500,000 over the estimates for 1955. Such increases were inconsistent with the position achieved in the United Nations and also raised doubt as to whether the desire expressed by Governments for the stabilization of agencies' budgets had received serious attention.

10. While his delegation would comment later on the individual sections of the estimates, it wished to express its satisfaction with the Secretary-General's statement regarding the efforts made to restrict the volume and cost of documentation. It was also glad to note the appreciation recorded by the Advisory Committee of the work done by the Publications Board and the Editorial Control Unit, the two instruments set up by the Secretary-General to control documentation, and the assurance given to the Committee that the work of the Editorial Control Unit and the co-ordination of the publications programme had the strong personal support of the Secretary-General.

11. Another matter of concern to the United Kingdom delegation was the high proportion of the United Nations budget devoted to public information activities, the gross cost of such activities being estimated at over \$5,100,000 for 1956. While the delegation welcomed the fact that the United Nations had undertaken a number of vital public information activities connected with the peaceful uses of atomic energy, disarmament and the economic development of under-developed countries in 1955, it fully shared the Advisory Committee's view that a strict order of priorities should be applied to all information activities and that the level of expenditure on those activities should be reduced. It considered not only that the level of expenditure recommended by the Advisory Committee should be reached within the next three years, but that an immediate start should be made in 1956 toward the attainment of that level.

12. It was glad to find that the Secretary-General had acted on the recommendation made by many delegations at the ninth session that a more direct control should be exercised by the United Nations over revenue-producing activities.

13. It was also gratified by the Advisory Committee's recommendation for a reduction of half a million dollars in the Working Capital Fund, a recommendation which testified to the sound financial state of the Organization. It doubted, however, whether the recommendation went far enough and believed that there were grounds for reducing the Working Capital Fund to the original figure of \$20 million.

14. In conclusion, he gave the Secretary-General an assurance of the United Kingdom delegation's full support in his continued efforts to improve the organization and efficiency of the Secretariat.

First reading

SECTION 2. THE SECURITY COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

15. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that no monetary provision was requested for the section, which had been maintained *pro forma* to provide for the possibility of the Security Council, its commissions or committees meeting away from Headquarters.

Section 2 was approved unanimously.

SECTION 4. THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

16. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Advisory Committee, in its first report to the tenth session of the General Assembly (A/2921), recommended a provisional appropriation of \$50,000, as requested by the Secretary-General, subject to later adjustment, if necessary, in the light of the decisions taken by the Trusteeship Council regarding the 1956 Visiting Mission.

The recommendation was unanimously approved on first reading.

SECTION 6. OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

17. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that, in paragraph 63 of its report, the Advisory Committee had drawn attention to the fact that the Secretary-General's estimate for chapter V, Internal Audit Service, had been submitted subject to the action the General Assembly might take upon reviewing the audit procedures of the United Nations and the specialized agencies (external audit). The Secretary-General's proposals on that question had since been circulated in document A/2974, where it was

suggested that the budgetary provisions as proposed in the 1956 estimates should be maintained, subject to the grant of authority to make any transfers required in implementing the plan. As the Advisory Committee had raised no objection to the Secretary-General's suggestion in its report on the review of audit procedures (A/2990), he assumed that the Committee could deal with the question of transfers in considering the draft appropriation resolution for 1956 and that its first reading of the section could be based on the budget estimates and the Advisory Committee's report on those estimates.

Chapter I. Executive Office of the Secretary-General
No comments were made on this chapter.

Chapter II. Office of Legal Affairs

18. Lord FAIRFAX (United Kingdom) said his delegation shared the concern expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 57 of its report at the tendency of departments to place a progressively larger burden of work on the Office of Legal Affairs. While much of that work was properly referred to the Office, the Advisory Committee had pointed out that the United Nations was not immune from the tendency of national civil servants to postpone difficult decisions by seeking legal advice. His delegation agreed that the problem was essentially within the Secretary-General's administrative competence and was confident that satisfactory steps would be taken to deal with it.

19. It also felt some concern at the small number of posts in the junior professional category, to which the Advisory Committee had drawn attention and was glad to learn that the Secretary-General was aiming at a better distribution of the professional posts in the Office by classification levels.

20. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) said his delegation had also been struck by the comments of the Advisory Committee mentioned by the United Kingdom representative. It realized that there was no easy solution to the problem of ensuring that the Office of Legal Affairs was not consulted unnecessarily and found it reassuring that both the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee were aware of the need for vigilance in that respect.

21. Mr. van ASCH van WIJCK (Netherlands) agreed with the United Kingdom and Australian representatives on the question of the workload of the Office of Legal Affairs. Where the staffing of that Office was concerned, he thought it was difficult, if not impossible, to make any immediate change and he was therefore glad that the Secretary-General had undertaken to keep the situation under review. He hoped that in the course of time it would prove possible to provide the promotion opportunities for junior staff members which were essential to a career service.

22. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) said that the Advisory Committee had clearly recognized that one of the functions of the Office was to advise departments on matters in which there was any question of the law to be applied. Another part of its workload, however, sprang from activities outside the Secretariat; considerable demands had, for example, been made upon it in connexion with the Administrative Tribunal and also with the question of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The problem would seem to be to achieve a proper balance between the responsibility of the Office to provide advice and the responsibilities imposed upon it by the development of new issues affecting the Organization.

23. His delegation attached considerable importance to the question of staffing dealt with in paragraph 58 of the Advisory Committee's report. If arrangements could be made for the training and fuller utilization of junior staff, it might be possible for senior staff to deal only with the most important issues. A thorough study of the whole problem would probably reveal the right solution.

24. Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation agreed with the comments of the Advisory Committee and previous speakers regarding the high proportion of senior posts in the Office of Legal Affairs, a situation that also existed in the other Offices of the Secretary-General. He knew that the Secretary-General attached great importance to remedying the situation and trusted that specific action would be taken to make fuller use of the experience acquired by officials and to provide for a more effective directing staff.

25. Mr. THERON (Union of South Africa) said that his delegation supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on section 6.

26. In response to an inquiry from Mr. FRIIS (Denmark), Mr. STAVROPOULOS (The Legal Counsel) said that, while the Office of Legal Affairs had informed the Advisory Committee that its workload had increased over the past few years, it had not informed the Committee that the tendency to shift responsibility mentioned in the final sentence of paragraph 57 was a reality. He interpreted that sentence as a useful warning. While departments might sometimes have sought the advice of the Office on matters not primarily legal in character, they had in such cases been discouraged from doing so. But apart from improper requests for advice, the work of the Office had been increased by the emergence of new issues to an extent that had been impossible to anticipate. It had many clients to advise, including the Secretary-General, the departments of the Secretariat, and the regional commissions. It also had to service commissions and committees dealing with purely legal matters. All those responsibilities were time-consuming and imposed a heavy burden on the small staff of the Office.

27. Where staffing was concerned, it must frankly be admitted that the proportion of senior staff members was high. In view of the fact that legal advice, if it was to be of value, had to be based on mature knowledge and experience, it was unlikely that the manning table would ever have the same proportion of junior staff as other departments. Nevertheless, the existing situation was not intended to be permanent; an attempt would be made to increase the number of junior staff and decrease that of high-ranking officials.

28. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) said that the Office of Legal Affairs should not of course be burdened by questions which it did not normally handle but it was not surprising that its work tended to increase in volume as international activities expanded. Besides, the Fifth Committee had often heard the view that, so far as possible, sources outside the Administration should not be asked for legal advice. That was why it was essential to maintain a highly competent legal department, which presupposed many years of training and experience. That accounted for the relatively large number of high-ranking officials in the Office of Legal Affairs. In the final analysis, the Secretary-General should be depended upon to organize his legal service for maximum efficiency.

29. Mr. ASHA (Syria) said that, while his delegation concurred in the observations of the Advisory Committee, it hoped that neither these observations nor the discussion in the Fifth Committee would have the effect of deterring departments from seeking the advice of the Office of Legal Affairs wherever appropriate. He did not personally believe that the practice of shifting responsibility was prevalent. He agreed that the Office would probably always have a high proportion of senior staff. At the present time, in particular, officials with a training in international law were comparatively rare and time was needed for the necessary experience to be gained.

Chapter III. Office of the Controller; chapter IV. Office of Personnel; chapter V. Internal Audit Service; chapter VI. Health Service

No comments were made on those chapters.

30. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that \$2,037,100 be appropriated under section 6.

The recommendation was unanimously approved on first reading.

SECTION 6a. OFFICE OF UNDER-SECRETARIES WITHOUT DEPARTMENT

31. In reply to a question from Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. TURNER (Controller) explained that the budgetary provision for Under-Secretaries without Departments was not included in section 6 because that office was not one of the offices of the Secretary-General; Under-Secretaries without portfolio were concerned with the work of the Secretariat as a whole and their functions did not fall within the sphere of activity of any one office or department.

32. Mr. MERROW (United States of America) asked that the vote in first reading on that section should be deferred until the Secretary-General's further report on the reorganization of the Secretariat was available.

It was so decided.

SECTION 7. DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS

33. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) assumed that a considerable part of the work on the repertory of the practice of United Nations organs had fallen on the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs. He asked whether the termination of that important publication would have any effect on the future staffing of the Department.

34. Mr. PROTITCH (Under-Secretary for Political and Security Council Affairs) said that, although the work on the repertory of practice of United Nations organs under the Charter had been done by the Secretariat as a whole, the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs had naturally taken a large share in it. The Department had been able to complete its part of the work in good time in spite of staffing difficulties; it would be possible for it to continue to do so in the future, if subsequent surveys were to be published in the form of biennial supplements.

35. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$555,200 under section 7.

The recommendation was unanimously approved on first reading.

SECTION 7a. SECRETARIAT OF THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE

36. Lord FAIRFAX (United Kingdom) said that, although his delegation would vote for the Secretary-General's estimate, it was far from satisfied that the best use was being made of the secretariat of the Military Staff Committee. He drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the number of established posts proposed exceeded by three the target strength recommended by the Secretary-General's Survey Group. The Military Staff Committee had expressed the wish that its secretariat should be kept fully employed, but although the Advisory Committee had been able to record an improvement in that respect, it had concluded that there remained scope for the fuller employment of those staff members. His delegation sincerely hoped that the Secretary-General would act upon the Advisory Committee's recommendations at the earliest possible date.

37. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) associated his delegation with the views expressed by the United Kingdom representative and drew the Committee's attention to the basic principle set forth in paragraph 76 of the Advisory Committee's report. He noted that as in previous years the Military Staff Committee held to the view that under the terms of its provisional rules of procedure, its secretariat must remain an independent unit. The Belgian delegation doubted that any rational justification could be found for maintaining a totally ineffectual department and hoped that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would be heeded.

38. Mr. VENKATARAMAN (India) agreed with the previous speakers; his delegation, too, found the number of established posts in the Military Staff Committee's secretariat excessive and felt that efforts should be made to reduce them to the target strength recommended by the Survey Group. He did not think that the objection to the integration of the secretariat with that of the United Nations based on the Military Staff Committee's provisional rules of procedure was a valid one, for if integration was desirable, the rules could surely be amended to make it possible.

39. Mr. CUTTS (Australia) echoed the remarks of previous speakers and endorsed the observations of the Advisory Committee on the subject: the conference staff servicing the Military Staff Committee secretariat should, it was obvious, form part of the Department of Conference Services. The contrary views of the Military Staff Committee had so far prevailed; the General Assembly should take up the issue and settle the matter very soon. Meanwhile ways should be found of keeping the Committee's secretariat fully employed, and the Military Staff Committee should be urged, as the Advisory Committee had recommended, to take steps to that end.

40. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) said that his delegation shared the belief of the Secretary-General that the United Nations Secretariat should be one and indivisible, and he therefore vigorously endorsed the comments made by previous speakers, and especially by the representative of Australia, regarding the secretariat of the Military Staff Committee. A prominent place should, he thought, be given in the Rapporteur's report to the reservation of principle stated by the Advisory Committee. As a mark of its disapproval of the long delay in settling that matter satisfactorily, his delegation would abstain in the vote on that section of the budget estimates.

41. Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked for some comment from the representative of the Military Staff Committee.

42. Commander LAUFF (Principal Secretary of the Military Staff Committee) said that the Secretaries of the Military Staff Committee wished to inform the Fifth Committee that the steps initiated by them at the last session of the General Assembly had led to an arrangement whereby members of the secretariat of the Military Staff Committee, when not employed by that Committee itself, gave their services to the United Nations Secretariat. They were thus fully occupied. In addition, monetary provision had not been requested for 1956 for two posts, one at Second Officer level and one at General Service intermediate level, which were at present unfilled. The Secretaries of the Military Staff Committee therefore recommended the approval of the Secretariat's budget as submitted by the Secretary-General.

43. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) and Mr. VENKATARAMAN (India) were not satisfied with the reply given by the Principal Secretary of the Military Staff Committee and saw no reason why the provisional rules of procedure of that Committee should not be amended to permit of the integration of its secretariat with the United Nations Secretariat as a whole.

44. Commander LAUFF (Principal Secretary of the Military Staff Committee) said that any proposal for the absorption of the Military Staff Committee's secretariat by the United Nations Secretariat would be unacceptable to the Military Staff Committee, which felt that an important question of principle was involved.

45. Mr. FENAUX (Belgium) and Mr. VENKATARAMAN (India) regretted that they would be obliged to abstain in the vote on that section of the budget estimates.

46. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$107,500 under section 7a.

The recommendation was approved on first reading by 35 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

47. Mr. van ASCH van WIJCK (Netherlands) said that he had abstained in the vote just taken for the reasons given by the representatives of Belgium, Denmark and India.

48. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) explained that his delegation's vote in favour of the Secretary-General's proposal did not mean that it was unmindful of the anomalous situation to which other representatives had drawn attention: it had simply felt that it would be advisable to await a detailed statement regarding the possibility of integrating the two secretariats and the various considerations involved. It would, however, suggest that the Rapporteur's report should stress the need for such information so that a final decision might be taken on the matter.

SECTION 11. DEPARTMENT OF CONFERENCE SERVICES

49. Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) noted that although there had been some reduction in the size of the Department of Conference Services as the result of the Secretary-General's reorganization of the Secretariat, it still remained very large; his delegation felt that a further streamlining could be effected, and was disappointed to find that the 1956 budget estimates did not contain further proposals for the suppression of posts. Again, the Advisory Commit-

tee had constantly recommended the exchange of staff members between sections of the Department in accordance with the shifting of the workload from one to another, but he saw no indication that that suggestion had been put into effect. He regretted that the Advisory Committee had not made more substantial proposals for the improvement of the working of the Department: there was, for instance, no need to maintain the Library as a separate entity in the budget estimates; its fusion with the Department of Conference Services would offer greater opportunities for a better utilization of staff and should make it possible to produce more with fewer numbers. He therefore proposed to the Fifth Committee that as an indication of the way in which it wished the Secretary-General to conduct the Department in the future, it should make a further token reduction of \$40,000 in the appropriation for that section. The total reduction would then be one per cent of the Department's budget which, while not impairing the Department's work would nevertheless act as a stimulus towards the reduction of costs and the improvement of the efficiency of that part of the Secretariat.

50. Mr. ASHA (Syria) said that in general his delegation shared the views of the Advisory Committee with respect to the Department of Conference Services. It would, in addition, like to express its gratification at the speedy and efficient establishment of an Arabic section in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 878 (IX). The new section was already engaged on the translation of certain important documents, which would be distributed before the end of the present session. He commended the praiseworthy efforts of the Under-Secretary and his assistants in that matter, and asked what documents had been approved for translation into Arabic and what additional staff the Arabic section would need for the full implementation of the resolution by, say, 1957.

51. Mr. WALL (Canada) expressed his delegation's confidence in the recommendations of the Advisory Committee regarding the Department of Conference Services; it was averse to the practice of making arbitrary cuts in appropriations at the risk of impairing the efficient functioning of a Department.

52. Mr. LIU (China) said that it was not surprising that the Department was the largest and the most costly in the Secretariat in view of the burden of work that fell upon it. He noted with approval the progress made in clearing the backlog of translations into the Chinese, Russian and Spanish languages, and agreed with the Canadian representative that arbitrary reductions should not be made in the budget estimates.

53. Mr. HOO (Under-Secretary for Conference Services), replying to the USSR representative, quoted paragraph 107 of the Advisory Committee's report and pointed out that the Department had already reached the target figure of 909 posts recommended during 1954 by the Survey Group. Ten posts had, however, been added to that figure in order to include the staff of the Arabic translation section.

54. An exchange of staff took place within the Department, translators and interpreters being lent to other units and sometimes to other Departments. As would be seen from the Advisory Committee's report, members of the Editorial Control Unit were to be lent to certain substantive Departments.

55. The USSR representative's suggestion that the budget estimates for the Library should appear as part

of the estimates of the Department of Conference Services was merely a question of budget presentation.

56. Referring to the comments in paragraph 117 of the Advisory Committee's report, he pointed out that, despite the fact that the Library's workload had increased, its manning table had been reduced and he did not consider that any of the Library staff could be spared for work in other units of the Department.

57. With regard to the Syrian representative's statement, every care had been taken to obtain the best qualified translators for work in the Arabic translation section. Out of 600 applicants, 300 candidates had been selected to take the examination, five of whom had been appointed and had begun work in July 1955. Although the Arabic translation section had been set up only in July it had already translated the Secretary-General's report to the tenth session of the General Assembly. The following documents would also shortly be translated: the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the resolutions adopted at the General Assembly's ninth session — especially those referring to the Arabic-speaking countries; extracts from the budget estimates for the financial year 1956; a summary of economic developments in the Middle East from 1953 to 1954; sections of the report of the Technical Assistance Administration relating to the Middle East; and resolutions of the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council, especially those relating to Arabic-speaking countries. It was difficult, however, for him to say whether the present staff of the Arabic translation section would be sufficient to do the work envisaged.

58. Referring to the statement of the Chinese representative, he was happy to inform the Committee that the translation of arrears had been expedited by the introduction of mechanical transcribing equipment in the Chinese translation section, which had enabled the translators to increase their output by 20 per cent. It was hoped that the arrears of Chinese translation would be liquidated by the end of 1957.

59. Mr. ASHA (Syria) was grateful for the Under-Secretary's explanations and said that after consultation with his Arab colleagues he would present certain suggestions later in the general debate.

60. His delegation wished to thank the Under-Secretary and his staff for the efficient way in which they had carried out General Assembly resolution 878 (IX), and for the help they had given his delegation in the reorganization of its documentation services.

61. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) also expressed his delegation's gratitude to the Under-Secretary for Conference Services for the detailed information he had given the Committee.

62. In connexion with the examination held for Arabic translators he emphasized that it should have been open to the citizens of all Member States and should not have been confined to any one group of States. The documentation translated into Arabic should also be distributed in the normal manner.

63. Mr. LIU (China), referring to a suggestion made by his delegation some years ago that certain pamphlets published by the Department of Public Information should be translated into Chinese, said that at that time his delegation had been informed that such a decision came within the competence of the Department of Conference Services. He now wished to know whether that

was so or whether the decision lay with the Department of Public Information.

64. Mr. HOO (Under-Secretary for Conference Services), referring to the remarks of the representative of Israel, said that the examination for Arabic translators had not been restricted to any nationality. In accordance with the Secretariat's usual practice, the examination had been held in places where the language in question was spoken.

65. The documents translated into Arabic would be distributed in the usual way.

66. Replying to the question of the representative of China, he said that the Department of Conference Services normally translated only official documents, although it had on occasions assisted other Departments by translating documents which were not official. With regard to the pamphlets published by the Department of Public Information, it was for that Department to decide which it wished to be translated.

67. Mr. CHECHYOTKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), although grateful for the Under-Secretary's explanations, was not wholly satisfied that no possibilities existed for further reductions in the staff and budget estimates of the Department of Conference Services.

68. Mr. TURNER (Controller), referring to the USSR representative's proposal, said that the Secretary-General hoped in due course to submit to the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee suggestions as to changes to be made in the form of the budget.

69. He emphasized that the 1956 budget estimate for section 11 was very tight, and the fact that the Advisory Committee, after a very careful scrutiny, had recommended a reduction of \$20,000 only was convincing evidence of that fact.

70. The adjustment made for turnover of staff, involving as it did, the need for effecting savings totalling 5 per cent in the estimates, would, in itself, provide a stimulus of the type the USSR representative had in mind. He hoped, therefore, that the Fifth Committee would concur in the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

71. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the USSR representative's proposal that the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee in the appropriation for section 11 should be increased by \$40,000.

The proposal was rejected by 40 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.

72. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$6,241,400 for section 11.

The recommendation was approved on first reading by 42 votes to 5.

SECTION 11a. LIBRARY

73. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Advisory Committee had recommended an appropriation of \$483,500 for section 11a—the same figure as that submitted by the Secretary-General.

74. With reference to paragraphs 120 and 121 of the Advisory Committee's first report on the question of the adequacy of space in the Library building, he thought that the Committee would wish to receive additional

information on the matter from the Under-Secretary for Conference Services.

75. Mr. HOO (Under-Secretary for Conference Services) emphasized that the Library building was unsuited to its function. However, as a result of certain measures taken during the past year, the question of space was much less serious than it had threatened to be. The list of government publications, newspapers and periodicals received had been revised and a number of them which were of little interest had been eliminated. In consultation with the interested Departments the Library authorities had reduced the number of copies of certain periodicals kept on file. It had also tightened its policy regarding the acceptance of gift material, and had rigidly limited the period of retention of periodical publications of ephemeral interest. The number of copies retained in the Library of certain United Nations and specialized agencies documents had been reduced, and gifts of publications had been made to other libraries in the New York area. Unmarketable and duplicate publications had been sold as waste paper.

76. Additional shelves had been erected, and the space made available by the removal of the cafeteria would give the Library approximately 1,370 square feet of extra space which would hold 14,500 volumes. Additional space might also become available if the offices now occupied by the Military Staff Committee were taken over.

77. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) congratulated the Under-Secretary on the arrangements made in connexion with the Library and thanked him for the additional information he had supplied. He hoped, however, that a full set of documents published by the United Nations and specialized agencies would be retained in the Library, as such a Library should be fully equipped.

78. Referring to paragraph 120 of the Advisory Committee's first report, he noted that the problem of space was no longer an acute one. In connexion with the last sentence of that paragraph, he wished to know whether it was intended that duplicate permanent material should be transferred to the European Office, or whether it was intended to transfer such material as was not now available at that office. Such a transfer would be very costly, and he felt that no action should be taken which would reduce the present very high degree of usefulness of the Library.

79. Mr. MAHDAVI (Iran) was gratified to note that the problem of shortage of space in the Library had been solved. He hoped that a full set of the important publications issued by the specialized agencies would be retained in the Library.

80. Mr. HOO (Under-Secretary for Conference Services) wished to reassure the representatives of Israel and Iran about the documents of the United Nations and specialized agencies, and pointed out that additional shelves had been erected to accommodate such publications.

81. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of \$483,500 for section 11a.

The recommendation was approved unanimously on first reading.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.