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*Chairman* : Mr. T. A. STONE (Canada).

#### Opening speech by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN said he regarded his election as Chairman as a great honour to his country and as a marked confidence in himself. He had had no previous experience in the work of the United Nations, but knew the Fifth Committee's reputation for efficiency and thoroughness, and the *esprit de corps* which had enabled it to dispose, in the course of its successive sessions, of the usual formidable agenda in a business-like manner and with tolerance and understanding of each member's point of view. With such *esprit de corps*, which implied complete co-operation between the Chair and the members, he was sure that the Committee would be able to deal with its work expeditiously.

2. The problems referred to the Fifth Committee were perhaps not so spectacular or so seemingly important as those dealt with by other Committees. Each of them was, however, as vital in one way or another to the efficient functioning of the United Nations, and, although the proceedings of the Fifth Committee might sometimes seem exceedingly dull, members would have the satisfaction of knowing that it was in a very real sense practical and necessary, and that their decisions would affect virtually every action taken by the General Assembly.

3. The Fifth Committee's main task was to deal with the budget of the United Nations; but in 1951 the Committee had less time than in previous years for completing the examination of the budget and submitting recommendations to the General Assembly. Unless the 1952 budget was adopted before the end of 1951 the Secretary-General would have no funds at his

disposal as from 31 December 1951. He hoped, therefore, that that part of the Committee's work would be completed before the Christmas recess.

4. The Committee's work was greatly facilitated by the searching examination made of the Secretary-General's estimates by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and he therefore wished to express the Committee's gratitude to the Advisory Committee for its excellent and thorough reports.

5. The second important question to be dealt with by the Committee was that of the 1952 assessments — not unlikely to prove a thorny problem.

6. The third main item of business was the consideration of the permanent staff regulations. In that respect, the Committee's work had been simplified by the large measure of agreement that existed between the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies.

7. He hoped that other items of business would not present any special difficulties or occupy the Committee's time unduly, and that it would complete its work by the appointed date.

8. The Assembly would have to deal with extremely weighty political questions, and delegations would be anxious to dispose of the Fifth Committee's business as quickly as possible. The time was also one of severe economic stress for many of the Member States and hence delegations would feel obliged to examine the budgetary implications of the proposals placed before them with special care.

9. He hoped that the Committee's meetings would

always begin on time, and asked members to spend the minimum of time on the discussion of purely political and procedural issues, but to concentrate on those which involved the consideration of budgetary and administrative policy.

10. Sir William MATTHEWS (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. BRENNAN (Australia), congratulated the Chairman on his election.

#### Election of the Vice-Chairman

11. Mr. MAROGER (France) nominated Mr. Albornoz (Ecuador) as Vice-Chairman.

12. Mr. BEZERRA DE MEDEIROS (Brazil), supported by Mr. TOV (Israel), Mr. SEVILLA-SACASA (Nicaragua), Mr. CARRIZOSA (Colombia) and Mr. SANTISO-GALVEZ (Guatemala), seconded the nomination.

*Mr. Albornoz was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.*

13. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador), thanking the Committee for the honour it had bestowed on his country by electing him Vice-Chairman, mentioned that in several years of service with the United Nations Secretariat he had appreciated there the same spirit of devotion towards the Organization as that shown by delegations.

#### Election of the Rapporteur

14. Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa) nominated Mr. Asha (Syria) who had been associated with the work of the United Nations ever since the San Francisco Conference and had also been a member of the Committee on Contributions for three years and a member of the Advisory Committee since 1950.

15. Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands), supported by Mr. FAHMI (Egypt), Mr. GAZDAR (Pakistan), Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq), Mr. BUSTAMANTE (Mexico) and Mr. BOURGET (Canada) seconded the nomination.

16. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) said he could not support the proposal that a member of the Advisory Committee should be elected Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee.

*Mr. Asha was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

17. Mr. ASHA (Syria) expressed his gratitude for the great honour bestowed on his country and on him.

#### Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.5/453)

18. The CHAIRMAN said that the various reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would be used by the Committee as working documents for the corresponding items on its agenda.

19. Referring to the letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.5/453), he said that additional items of the agenda involving financial implications would be referred to the Committee by other Main Committees.

20. Pointing out that the agenda did not have to be formally adopted, he suggested that the Committee should deal with its business in the order set out in the President's letter which, however, might be modi-

fied at any time for reasons of convenience or expediency. The consideration of item 1 (c) and (d) [39] \* would be postponed for a short while as the report of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/1931) had only just been circulated and would first have to be considered by the Advisory Committee. The report of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency had just been completed and would be distributed in the near future. The Committee should begin discussion of the budget estimates for the financial year 1952 [41] immediately after the consideration of item 1 (b) of the agenda.

21. He pointed out that in his statement to the Fifth Committee on the budget estimates for the financial year 1952 (A/C.5/448), the Secretary-General had urged that the General Assembly should act on at least the major portion of the 1952 budget estimates before the end of 1951.

22. The first reading of the 1952 budget estimates might be interrupted at an appropriate moment for studying the Secretary-General's report on the supplementary estimates for 1951 [40]. That report was in course of preparation and would be circulated soon, and should first be transmitted to the Advisory Committee for its examination and report.

23. The next item of business should be the question of contributions [44]. As it would doubtless be helpful to delegations to know their liabilities under the assessments, he hoped that the report of the Committee on Contributions (A/1859) would be discussed before the Christmas recess.

24. Item 5 of the agenda [42] ought to receive some priority, and he suggested that delegations wishing to propose suitable candidates to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly should transmit nominations to him or to the Secretary of the Committee as soon as possible.

25. Items 6 and 7 [28 and 11] were to be discussed, as in the past, jointly with the Joint Second and Third Committee, and it had been tentatively suggested that those meetings should be held between 13 and 15 December 1951, in order to take advantage of the presence in Paris of the executive heads of the various specialized agencies.

26. Of the remaining items of the agenda the most important were those relating to the permanent staff regulations [45] and to the question of the permanent Headquarters [46]. The third report of 1951 of the Advisory Committee (A/1855) and the Secretary-General's memorandum (A/1912) dealt with the staff regulations. As regards permanent Headquarters, the Secretary-General recalled in his report (A/1895) that at its fifth session the General Assembly had decided to defer any request for additional funds because it had then lacked sufficient particulars of the full impact of price increases upon the construction programme. It could therefore anticipate a definite request for additional funds during the course of the present year. He assumed that members of the Committee would desire that any such request should first be considered by the Headquarters Advisory Committee

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

and then by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

27. The remaining items on the agenda would, he trusted, prove to be of relatively routine character, and he hoped that, with a reasonable number of meetings, the Fifth Committee would complete its agenda early in the New Year.

28. If there were no comments on his suggestions, he would assume that the plan of work he had proposed was acceptable.

*It was so decided.*

### Financial reports and accounts, and reports of the Board of Auditors

[Item 39]\*

#### (a) United Nations, for the financial year ended 31 December 1950 (A/1800, A/1853)

29. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee to consider the financial report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1950 and the report of the Board of Auditors (A/1800), and paragraphs 365 to 372 of the second report of 1951 of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1853).

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Watson Sellar, Chairman of the Board of Auditors, took a seat at the Committee table.*

30. Mr. VORYS (United States of America) referred to discussions between his delegation and others regarding paragraphs 25, 26 and 27 of the report of the Board of Auditors and the relevant comments in paragraph 371 of the second report of 1951 of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly. The Board of Auditors had implied that the Working Capital Fund was inadequate to meet the demands upon it, particularly those due to unusual delays in the payment of contributions to special programmes approved by the General Assembly such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which were financed by voluntary contributions. It had accordingly suggested that the current session of the Assembly should give careful attention to the level at which the Working Capital Fund should be maintained. The United States delegation was much concerned at the problem raised by the Board of Auditors and concurred in the proposal of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that it should give further consideration to a possible amendment of the Working Capital Fund resolution and to any suggestions which the Secretary-General might wish to make.

31. Before, however, his delegation would be prepared to consider an expansion of the Working Capital Fund, it wished to be certain that all other methods of strengthening the Fund had been explored, including the collection of voluntary contributions as early as possible in the financial year. A Negotiating Committee had been appointed the previous year to obtain pledges and to urge the early payment of contributions to special programmes; it had enjoyed a fair measure of success, but had been hampered by being appointed late in the session when many of the leading representatives and financial experts had left for home.

According to the annual report of the Secretary-General (A/1844, pp. 43-4), the Committee had inferred that its recommendations to the General Assembly would include suggestions for a new negotiating committee to start work at the beginning rather than at the end of the General Assembly session.

32. His delegation was anxious that the experience of the previous year should not be lost. Since the agenda of the current session included several issues, for example, technical assistance, which might involve financing outside the United Nations budget, it would be sensible to make provision forthwith for a committee responsible for dealing with any such questions that might arise. That would in turn serve to reduce or eliminate demands on the Working Capital Fund. While that Committee's specific tasks could not yet be defined, its early establishment would serve to avoid the organizational delays which would be inevitable if action was postponed until later in the session. In association with the United Kingdom delegation, his delegation therefore proposed that, in its report on the financial report and accounts and report of the Board of Auditors, the Committee should recommend the General Assembly to request the President to establish immediately a negotiating committee on the lines of the committee set up at the fifth session.

33. Such a committee should primarily be regarded as an instrument for consultation with both Member and non-member Governments with a view to ensuring prompt and full financial support for programmes which had been formally approved by the United Nations and therefore deserved the full support of every Member State. There was too great a discrepancy between the number of Member States voting for the institution of a programme and the number of those giving it substantial concrete support. While the degree of interest of Member States in any given programme would naturally vary, as would the extent of the resources they could contribute, to call the attention of every Member State to its responsibilities for carrying out such programmes would help to convert voting into material support and would secure a more equitable distribution of the total burden. The committee would discuss with each government the resources it could make available with a view to final official statements, which might be reserved for a conference or series of conferences to be held after final action on the programme in question had been taken by the Main Committees concerned.

34. In conclusion, he proposed that the Committee should invite Mr. Corley Smith, Chairman of the Negotiating Committee appointed at the previous session, to make a statement on the Committee's work and to answer questions.

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Corley Smith, Chairman of the 1950 Negotiating Committee on Contributions to Programmes of Relief and Rehabilitation, took a seat at the Committee table.*

35. Mr. CORLEY SMITH (United Kingdom), Chairman of the 1950 Committee on Programmes of Relief and Rehabilitation, recalled the purpose of the Negotiating Committee and referred to its report (A/1769) and further papers on its work which had been issued since. In its task of consulting Member States concerning what contributions they were prepared to make to the relief and rehabilitation programmes, the Negotiating Committee had soon met with the difficulty that, although they had approved the programmes,

number of governments had, regretfully, declared themselves unable to contribute towards them. The General Assembly's intention was that the programmes should be financed on a voluntary, not a mandatory, basis but it was an obvious and inescapable fact that the programmes could not be carried out unless Member States were prepared to shoulder the material burden necessary to the implementation of their own resolutions.

36. The financing of extra-budgetary programmes was probably the biggest single problem facing the Fifth Committee, as the required funds amounted to considerably more than the total of the United Nations budget proper. It could only be solved by a sense of responsibility in voting to spend, coupled with a sense of solidarity in contributing to the cost.

37. As already indicated by the United States delegate, the work of the Negotiating Committee had been hampered by the fact that it had only been set up at a late stage in the last General Assembly session, by which time many delegations were already depleted in number. Moreover, delegations needed considerable time for consultation with their governments. Consequently the Negotiating Committee had never taken any action on the suggestion that a conference should be held during the session of the General Assembly when Governments should formally pledge their contributions. By the time the preliminary negotiations were completed it was too late to consider such a course. Members of the Negotiating Committee had all been of the opinion that if similar action was to be taken at a future General Assembly, the body that was to carry it out should be appointed at the earliest possible moment in the session.

38. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Chairman of the 1950 Negotiating Committee for his statement and asked for comments on the United Kingdom and United States draft resolution.

39. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) said that his Government was not in favour of the proposal to establish a Negotiating Committee. The financing of the programmes in question was dependent on each country's financial capacity. Norway, for its part, would wish to look at the matter of its contributions as a whole, and would not be able to decide what it could contribute to the relief and rehabilitation programmes until it knew the total requirements for the United Nations and its affiliated bodies. In any event he would have to consult his Government before commenting on the United Kingdom and United States draft resolution.

40. Mr. FRIIS (Denmark) associated himself with the remarks of the representative of Norway. His delegation would be glad to study the resolution but for the same reason hoped it would not be put to the vote for a few days.

41. In answer to a question by Mr. MACHADO (Brazil), the CHAIRMAN announced that the provisional text of the United Kingdom and United States draft resolution would be circulated during the meeting. He proposed that consideration of it be postponed to an early meeting, in order to give delegations time to study it.

*It was so agreed.*

42. Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa) enquired whether adoption of the financial report would preclude consideration of the United Kingdom and United States draft resolution.

43. The CHAIRMAN replied that in his view acceptance of the financial report did not preclude consideration of the draft resolution. He thought it would be in order for the Committee to make two recommendations to the General Assembly: the first concerning the acceptance of the financial report, and the second concerning the United Kingdom and United States resolution, but both would be contained in the report which the Fifth Committee would make on that item to the plenary session.

44. He therefore proposed that the Committee should recommend the adoption of the following draft resolution:

*"The General Assembly*

*"1. Accepts the financial report and accounts of the United Nations for the financial year ended 31 December 1950, and the certificate of the Board of Auditors;*

*"2. Concurs in the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with respect to the report of the Board of Auditors."*

45. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) requested the Chairman to put the draft resolution to the vote. His delegation intended to abstain from voting, for the reason that the report included items of expenditure to which the USSR delegation objected in principle, such as those relating to United Nations activities in Greece and Korea and to the Field Service.

46. Mr. NOSEK (Czechoslovakia) associated himself with the remarks of the representative of the USSR and intended to abstain from voting for the same reason.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 41 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.*

**(b) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, for the financial year ended 31 December 1950 (A/1810, A/1951)**

47. The CHAIRMAN recalled that under General Assembly resolution 57 (I) the Secretary-General was required to submit to the General Assembly an annual audit of the accounts of the International Children's Emergency Fund. The financial report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1950 together with the report of the Board of Auditors were contained in document A/1810 and the relevant comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in document A/1951.

48. He proposed that the Committee should recommend the adoption of the following draft resolution:

*"The General Assembly*

*"1. Accepts the financial report and accounts of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund for the financial year ended 31 December 1950 and the certificate of the Board of Auditors;*

*"2. Takes note of the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with respect to the report of the Board of Auditors."*

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.