

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records



FIFTH COMMITTEE, 350th

MEETING

Tuesday, 28 October 1952, at 3 p.m.

Headquarters, New York

### CONTENTS

Page

Budget estimates for the financial year 1953: (a) Budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General (A/2125 and Add.1, A/C.5/500); (b) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/2157, A/C.5/499) (*continued*)

First reading (*continued*) ..... 47

*Chairman:* Brigadier-General Carlos P. ROMULO (Philippines).

**Budget estimates for the financial year 1953:**  
(a) Budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General (A/2125 and Add.1, A/C.5/500);  
(b) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/2157, A/C.5/499) (*continued*)

[Item 42]\*

#### First reading (*continued*)

SECTION 13. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION; SECTION 20 (CHAPTER II). GENEVA INFORMATION CENTRE; SECTION 21. INFORMATION CENTRES; SECTION 26 (CHAPTER I, ITEM (vii)). PUBLICATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (*continued*)

Mr. CALO (Philippines) said that there was a great need for the continuous development of public understanding of the work of the United Nations, and the value of the information services could not be evaluated in purely monetary terms.

The Department of Public Information was providing broadcasting programmes in many languages; films were being sent all over the world and printed matter was being widely disseminated in over thirty languages. Yet all that was being done with a budget smaller than the national appropriation of many Member States for similar services. The Department's budget had been reduced from year to year, and it had been able to increase its activities only thanks to conscientious efforts by the Secretariat to make more effective use of various techniques.

The United Nations had vital messages to bring to the peoples of the world. It spoke words of reassurance

by describing the progress made in developing collective measures against an aggressor. The technical assistance programmes held out the hope that standards of living in under-developed areas could be raised. Through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its work in connexion with the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories the United Nations encouraged legitimate aspirations to greater freedom and equality.

4. The development of enlightened world opinion about the United Nations was a Herculean task. Yet even with its present budget the Department's work was highly effective in many parts of the world. But the primary task of the Secretariat was to promote and supplement, not to supplant the services of existing media of mass communication. It was in the economically less-developed countries that fuller United Nations coverage could be given; and the Organization's intensified activities in economic and social fields had led to greater demands for material and services on those matters.

5. The Philippines delegation considered that the Secretary-General's proposals for the Department of Public Information were in conformity with the decisions taken on the point at the sixth session of the General Assembly. His delegation therefore could not accept all the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Department (A/2157). In particular it was unable to subscribe to the notion that a system of priorities should be rigidly observed, for it was very difficult to decide which areas of the world or which subjects should take precedence. If certain priorities were followed, some information services of real value to the under-developed countries would have to be neglected.

6. In connexion with the Advisory Committee's observation on films and visual information media,

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

attention should be drawn to the Secretary-General's comments that presentation through visual media had elicited a very wide response in under-developed countries. Because of the great number of persons reached through that method, investment in films and visual information services could be considered highly economical. The fact that Sub-Committee 8 had not devoted much space to those services in its report (A/C.5/L.172) merely meant that their value was generally acknowledged and that consequently there had been no need to dwell on the point. He agreed, however, that every effort should be made to operate the visual information services as economically as possible.

7. After due consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals, the Philippines delegation could not subscribe to the Advisory Committee's views and would therefore endorse the Secretary-General's proposals.

8. Mr. STRAUCH (Brazil) said his delegation would support the budget appropriations for the Department of Public Information proposed by the Secretary-General. The proposed budget for that Department for 1953 was not excessive, particularly when the scope of all United Nations activities, including those carried out through contributions to voluntary funds and services rendered to special agencies, were taken into consideration. Viewed in that light the Department's budget did not represent 11.51 per cent of the United Nations budget. Far from proposing a reduction in the estimates his delegation suggested that the Secretary-General might give more attention to publicizing the vital work of the technical assistance programme.

9. It was essential to keep the public informed of the constructive achievements of the United Nations. Moreover, the United Nations must combat the germs of war where they first took root—in men's minds. Accordingly, his delegation thought that the importance of public information services should not be underestimated.

10. He felt strongly that the work of the Department of Public Information should continue unimpaired. As the Secretary-General wished to maintain the Department's budget at the 1952 level, and as it might be assumed that the Department's work-load in 1953 would be heavier as a result of the technical assistance programme, the Brazilian delegation would support the Secretary-General's budget estimates and not the Advisory Committee's recommendations for section 13.

11. The Brazilian Government would never countenance reckless spending but neither could it vote blindly for any and every proposal to reduce the United Nations budget. The question of the expenditure of the Department of Public Information was a matter of policy: the Committee had to decide whether or not it wished the Department's work to continue at its existing level. His delegation believed that in view of the importance of public information services, the present level should be maintained.

12. He did not disagree with the Advisory Committee's views that the Department of Public Information should be operated as efficiently and economically as possible, but thought that the Committee should con-

centrate on developing practical suggestions for improving the functioning of the Department. It was the responsibility of the Fifth Committee, however, to work out policy to guide the Department in its work, tempering considerations of economy with an appreciation of the vital importance of public information work.

13. Mr. BLANCO (Cuba) said his delegation had endorsed the Secretary-General's views on the important role of the Department of Public Information in the work of the United Nations, as set out in his statement on the budget estimates for the financial year 1953 (A/C.5/500). The Fifth Committee should not reopen the debate on United Nations policy in regard to public information; Sub-Committee 8 had been established at the sixth session of the General Assembly to deal with that question in detail. The Sub-Committee had completed two tasks. It had reviewed the basic principles underlying the work of the Department of Public Information, and it had made recommendations on which the budget estimates for the Department for 1953 were to be based. By adopting resolution 595 (VI) the General Assembly had approved the basic principles of the policy set forth in the Sub-Committee's report and had thus taken its decision on a much-disputed question.

14. In the current budget estimates, the Secretary-General stated clearly that the appropriation for section 13 had been prepared in conformity with the Sub-Committee's recommendations. In accordance with resolution 595 (VI), moreover, the Fifth Committee should consider the observations of the Advisory Committee and of the Secretary-General, if any, on the Sub-Committee's report instead of re-convening that body or some other organ to deal with the question.

15. The Department of Public Information had followed the Sub-Committee's recommendations, and the reorientation of its activities was reflected in its budget. Increasingly effective work was being done in the field of press, publications, radio, films and visual media. Many publications and pamphlets on United Nations activities, including technical assistance, in as many as forty-eight different languages were being distributed throughout the world, including the under-developed areas, and more space was being devoted in the *United Nations Bulletin* to the work of the economic commissions for Latin America and Asia and the Far East. Moreover, countries were being encouraged to develop local United Nations information services. In accordance with the recommendations of the General Assembly at its sixth session, the Radio Division had been reorganized and through its television programmes the Department was reaching an ever-wider audience.

16. The Cuban delegation was gratified, therefore, to note that the Department had increased and improved its public information services, and would vote for the Secretary-General's budget estimates for the Department in preference to the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

17. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) recalled that during the general debate his delegation had said it would not agree to any proposal to limit or jeopardize the United Nations public information services, feeling as it did that the principles of the Charter and the high aims of the Organization and its activities should be given the widest possible publicity.

The budget of the Department of Public Information could not be viewed merely as a collection of figures, without taking into account the vital role its services played in making the work of the United Nations known in the farthest corners of the earth. Any action in the Department's budget might well make more difficult for the work of the Organization and related agencies to win universal recognition.

The Uruguayan delegation thought that people everywhere should be kept informed in detail of the principles of the Charter, which after the San Francisco Conference had become the new law of the international community, and which underlay every part of the work of the United Nations. There was no need to stress the special nature of the radio, film and publication services, if his delegation could not understand why some delegations called them excessive, particularly when the international communication services being maintained and developed by some Members of the United Nations were taken into consideration. But extensive as those services might be, they could not be expected adequately to present United Nations activities to the public; that was the task of the United Nations. The Organization could not depend for publicity on the goodwill of nationally or privately owned communications media, which might be more concerned with presenting their own views of world happenings. The principle of freedom of information included the right to receive as well as to disseminate information. There was, however, no assurance that information on United Nations activities could be presented accurately to people living, for example, in a totalitarian State or a territory which did not enjoy political independence. Yet the views of the representatives of sixty sovereign States Members of the United Nations should be presented clearly and accurately to the world; and that job could only be done by the Department of Public Information.

1. Through the public information services, moreover, international interest in and enthusiasm for the United Nations would be encouraged. In reply to the representative of Canada, he pointed out that although publicity programmes could be judged by their results, the work of the United Nations could not be measured by ordinary standards. Through its Department of Public Information, the United Nations offered a unique opportunity to disseminate the principles of true democracy and human rights, and to spread information of man's progress in all fields. The Uruguayan delegation evaluated the activities of the Department of Public Information from that standpoint. Hence, after studying the budget estimates for the Department for 1953 and after witnessing its day-by-day work, his delegation had decided that the Secretary-General's proposals for section 13 and section 21 and for all services related to public information should be supported, and it would vote against the Advisory Committee's recommendation for section 13.

2. Mr. NEHRU (India) said that in discussing the proposed budget for the Department of Public Information the Fifth Committee was faced with two separate issues. Firstly, it should decide to what extent the Secretary-General's budget estimates could be reduced without affecting the Department's programme of work. The Advisory Committee had answered that question by stating that after a minute examination of the esti-

mates it recommended a reduction of \$142,500. That reduction was so small that his delegation could not agree it would impair the functioning of the Department. In addition, his delegation was opposed to the arbitrary alteration of figures which had been reached after thorough consideration, and would therefore oppose any proposal to amend the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

22. Secondly, the Fifth Committee should decide the level at which United Nations information activities should be conducted. Was the current level too high, and should a ceiling, in terms of money or of a percentage of the Organization's budget, be placed on such activities?

23. That issue had been referred to Sub-Committee 8 at the sixth session of the General Assembly, but a completely satisfactory answer had not been given, since the Sub-Committee's recommendations had not been related to their financial implications. Perhaps the Fifth Committee should decide to refer the matter to the Sub-Committee, as the Chinese representative had proposed, or possibly to some other body. If it did fail to take some action he feared that the same debate would recur every year. He therefore urged the Fifth Committee to act on the matter, since any recommendations reached by an *ad hoc* body could not be put into force until 1954.

24. Mr. PSCOLKA (Czechoslovakia) said that the Czechoslovak delegation concurred in the view that the reduction in the estimates for public information services recommended by the Advisory Committee was insignificant, and supported the Polish proposal to reduce the appropriations by a further \$250,000.

25. The budget of the Department of Public Information had always been a subject of lively controversy at General Assembly sessions. Attention had repeatedly been drawn to the disproportionate amount of the total United Nations budget devoted to information services—some 12 per cent for 1953. The Advisory Committee in its report (A/2157, para. 185) again drew attention to the importance of determining the relationship of information expenditure to total expenditure, as an essential criterion by which to review the information estimates.

26. The increase in the estimated requirements for 1953 was wholly unjustified in face of the clear directive for economy issued at the previous session. No real effort appeared to have been made to reorganize the Department, to set priorities for its work and to secure the most effective use of staff.

27. As the Advisory Committee rightly pointed out in paragraph 186 of its report, it rested with the General Assembly to determine the over-all limits to be set upon expenditure in accordance with the principles to govern public information activities which it had already adopted (A/C.5/L.172, annex). The further discussion of those principles advocated by the Ecuadorean representative would be entirely inappropriate and would be opposed by the Czechoslovak delegation.

28. Nor did the Czechoslovak delegation wish to enter into any discussion of such tendentious activities as the publication of the *United Nations Bulletin*, which clearly demonstrated the Department of Public Infor-

mation's lack of objectivity. He would point out to the representatives of Ecuador and Uruguay that the very existence of United Nations information centres in countries of Eastern Europe was sufficient evidence of their interest in disseminating information about the Organization. Constructive criticism of United Nations activities by representatives of those countries could not be construed as contrary to the Charter.

29. The Czechoslovak delegation, he would repeat, did not consider the work of the Department of Public Information satisfactory; moreover, further substantial savings might be made without in any way impairing the effectiveness of the services.

30. Mr. POPOVIC (Yugoslavia) observed that it would be wrong if the estimated requirements for the Department of Public Information were to show an inordinate rise out of all proportion to the growth of its activities. He fully agreed with the representatives who had stressed the importance of the Department's work. Nevertheless, every effort should be made to effect savings and to stabilize its budget without detriment to services.

31. The distribution of available funds among the various services was also important, and in applying an over-all cut any unreasonable reductions should be avoided. The items in which savings should be made first were those which would least affect the development and strengthening of the United Nations; and certainly no cuts should be made in essential services bearing on international co-operation and United Nations economic and social work.

32. The chief criterion applied in determining the level of information expenditure should be the usefulness of the services themselves. Accordingly, the application of any "ratio" or "ceiling" system would be inappropriate and not in keeping with the basic principles adopted by the General Assembly. In existing world conditions, the Yugoslav delegation naturally felt that the United Nations budget should be kept to the lowest possible level, but on the other hand information services were of such importance as to warrant their intensification. The broad masses of the people in some countries were being kept in ignorance of the work of the United Nations. For that reason alone it was essential that the objective reporting of world events should be maintained and strengthened. Peace and international co-operation would not in the last resort depend on the amount of the appropriations for United Nations information activities. Those activities made a substantial contribution, however, and the Yugoslav delegation accordingly felt that a reduction in the total appropriation was not justified.

33. Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands) entirely agreed with the Belgian representative that the Fifth Committee should thoroughly discuss the problems involved in determining the volume of services and expenditure for information, and should endeavour to reach conclusions which would provide guidance for future years.

34. The Netherlands delegation found the basic principles drawn up by Sub-Committee 8 generally acceptable, with some minor reservations. The term "positive informational activities" in the introduction

to the principles seemed rather vague, and the word "positive" might be deleted.

35. She endorsed the two suggestions regarding basic principle 1 made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 176 of its report. The reference in basic principle 2 to the maintenance of information centres on a "linguistic basis" was open to some doubt: the extent to which language should be a deciding factor would have to be determined in each concrete case. The reference work mentioned in basic principles 3 and 9 might more appropriately be concentrated in the Library.

36. The difficulty of formulating a system of priorities applicable to widely varying regional, language and other requirements was recognized by the Netherlands delegation. Nevertheless, it concurred in the Sub-Committee's view (paragraph 13 of its report) that it should not be unduly difficult for the Department of Public Information to furnish an appraisal of the main categories of services in terms of needs and effectiveness. The successful efforts to tackle a similar problem of the Economic and Social Council offered an encouraging example. She accordingly endorsed the position of the Advisory Committee as expressed in paragraph 175 of its report.

37. Reverting to the system of information centres, she agreed with the Advisory Committee that the application of the basic principles required a regular periodic review of the centres (paragraph 177); and co-ordination between the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be taken into account in any such review.

38. Responsibility for the budgetary aspects of the matter rested squarely on the shoulders of the General Assembly and in particular of the Fifth Committee. In paragraphs 185 and 186 of its report, the Advisory Committee had aptly expressed her own views on the matter. In face of the growing demand for expansion of information services, it was imperative for the General Assembly to determine the over-all limits that it desired to set upon expenditure.

39. The argument that the life or death of an international organization hinged on the amount of information disseminated regarding its activities could not be considered valid. What was needed was a sense of proportion in weighing the relative importance and urgency of the various United Nations activities within the budgetary limitations of the Organization. Moreover, the need for the maximum economy and efficiency in expenditure could not be overstressed in view of the fact that the total resources available for United Nations activities were far from unlimited, as had been emphasized during the general discussion on the budget.

40. The Netherlands delegation had no desire to see the work of the Department of Public Information crippled, but the estimated requirements, amounting to some 11.5 per cent of the total budget, would appear to be unduly high. A reasonable ratio and one that could be justified on the score of the importance of the work should be established.

41. Different figures had been quoted and it had been suggested that either a ratio or a ceiling or a combination of both should be established for information expenditure. The last-named solution, providing for a

ratio of about 10 per cent or a total figure of some 5,000,000, whichever might be the lower, had much to commend it as it allowed some flexibility and would serve as a guide to the Secretary-General in making his estimates for future years. In the meantime, a thorough reorganization of the Secretariat, in connexion with which certain provisional plans had been formulated, could have been carried into effect, providing for better streamlining and greater economy.

2. For the financial year 1953, the Netherlands delegation would be prepared to support the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee, which did not appear to be unduly harsh. There might indeed be room for further savings, and her delegation would give consideration to the other proposals for reductions. She reserved the right to speak again if the occasion arose.

3. In conclusion, she repeated the Netherlands delegation's tribute to the technical skill with which the information services were run, and commended the Assistant Secretary-General and his associates on the progress that had been made towards the desired degree of economy.

4. Mr. THORSING (Sweden), observing that his delegation had not taken part in the general discussion on the budget estimates, took the opportunity to make some general remarks. The Swedish delegation considered that not only the Department of Public Information but the Secretariat as a whole was over-staffed. Sweden being a comparatively small country, it was perhaps easy to understand that its representatives would find the over-heavy administrative structure of the United Nations unfortunate.

5. Secondly, the procedure for examination of the budget estimates was not conducive to objective consideration and the application of cuts where they might best be assimilated with least harm to essential services. He accordingly endorsed the Norwegian suggestion that the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat should be asked to work in closer association and present a common front to the Fifth Committee in submitting budget estimates.

6. Regarding the estimated requirements for the Department of Public Information, perhaps the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee could again consult together and work out a compromise proposal. The margin of difference was so small that it could seem unwise to create a cleavage which might disrupt good relationships for the future. If no agreement resulted, the Swedish delegation would support the estimate submitted by the Secretary-General.

7. The suggestion to set a ceiling or ratio for information expenditure was excellent. It would remove uncertainty for the future, for the inherent difficulty of doing good work under constant threat of the axe must be obvious. Lastly, there might be some room for savings in connexion with information centres.

8. Mr. LIVERAN (Israel) remarked that any representative who had participated in previous discussions on the budget estimates for the Department of Public Information could not but be struck by the similarity between the arguments heard then and those being adduced now. The underlying reasons for such repetition were fully explained in paragraphs 185 and

193 of the Advisory Committee's report, and the heat of the debate was accounted for by the fact that the two issues involved, the amount of information expenditure and the volume of information services, could not be separated. A decision on one necessarily determined the second.

49. The action taken the previous year in setting up a sub-committee to find a final solution and thus to obviate the need for lengthy debates year after year had failed in its basic purpose. The Advisory Committee itself had acknowledged that it was unable to make radical decisions and far-reaching proposals because of the lack of guidance provided by Sub-Committee 8. Moreover, the Advisory Committee had found that the material available in the budget estimates or in the Secretary-General's annual report (A/2141) was not sufficiently informative for any comparative review of media or services.

50. The Fifth Committee was therefore left with the same basic problem as in previous years. The delegation of Israel, which had opposed the setting up of the Sub-Committee, considered that the Fifth Committee could reach a sound budgetary decision on information expenditure only if it had before it an objective appraisal of the information needs of the United Nations and of the media to be used, which should be undertaken by the Secretariat, together with the Advisory Committee's recommendations thereon. Then and only then would it be possible to fix once and for all the level of expenditure which the United Nations could support in that field without impairing its informational or other activities. The widely divergent opinions in the Committee made such action all the more desirable.

51. In the meantime, the suggestion to fix a ratio or ceiling for information expenditure should be discarded. Such a method, lacking the analysis of all pertinent factors, would not necessarily be conducive to the efficient performance of the work.

52. The delegation of Israel was not suggesting that the wider problem should be taken up at the present session; it would not, however, support any proposal for a repetition of the previous year's procedure, which experience had shown to be barren of results. It reserved its right to speak on specific items during the detailed discussion.

53. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) said that the views on the United Nations budget which he had expressed at the General Assembly's sixth session remained unchanged.

54. He agreed with the Swedish representative, and emphasized that the Secretary-General's disagreement with the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee placed the Fifth Committee in a difficult position. Although he felt that the Advisory Committee should have the highest possible authority, he did not wish to detract from the authority of the Administration. However, the difference between the Advisory Committee and the Administration had perhaps been exaggerated by certain speakers.

55. As some representatives had pointed out, the needs of different countries for United Nations public information activities varied greatly. Teaching about the United Nations had been introduced into Nor-



wegian schools, and he felt that everything possible should be done to help the youth of all nations to obtain the right kind of information on United Nations work.

56. Referring to the Uruguayan representative's statement, he considered that the Department of Public Information must not be made into a sort of totalitarian source of information, giving only one side of the picture.

57. He shared the Swedish representative's opinion that it would help the Fifth Committee reach a decision if a joint proposal by the Advisory Committee and the Administration could be submitted for its consideration, and was personally very reluctant to make a statement on the reductions recommended until he had heard statements by the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Public Information and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. His delegation would be reluctant to support any reduction which might hamper important United Nations work.

58. Mr. MENDS-COLE (Liberia) supported the Secretary-General's budget estimates for sections 13 and 21. The United Nations must be given the opportunity to carry out its work effectively.

59. After paying tribute to the work of the staff of the Department of Public Information, he stressed the importance of that Department and the benefits derived from its activities by the under-developed peoples.

60. Referring to the Monrovia Information Centre, which served all West Africa, he said that Liberia would rather make a further contribution to the Centre's operating expenses than see its work thwarted by lack of funds.

61. Mr. WILEY (United States of America) emphasized his interest in United Nations public information activities, especially in connexion with the youth of the world. An ideological war was at present in progress, and the United States Government attached importance to the right ideology being fostered by the Department of Public Information.

62. Mr. BARTOL (Argentina), referring to the Ecuadorean representative's speech at the previous meeting, pointed out that in Argentina the Department of Public Information was not the sole source of information about the United Nations.

63. The matter before the Committee had two aspects—one relating to the question of policy and the other to the question of administration.

64. Drawing attention to the statement made by the Secretary-General on the work of the Department of Public Information (A/C.5/500) and to the fact that the Department's budget amounted to 11.5 per cent of the total United Nations budget, he considered that a matter of principle was involved. No reduction in the activities of the Department of Public Information could be expected until a certain maximum on which its work should be based had been fixed.

65. Referring to the various surveys of the work of the Department of Public Information which had already been made, he said that his delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation for a reduction of \$60,000 in the budget estimates for section 13.

66. Mr. KIA (Iran) said that his delegation agreed with other representatives that the work of the United

Nations should be carried out as economically as possible, and would therefore support the Advisory Committee's recommendation on section 13.

67. In small countries such as Iran the work of the Department of Public Information was highly important. He felt that information about the activities of the United Nations should be disseminated only by United Nations organs.

68. Mr. AHSON (Pakistan), referring to section 21, said that the information centres were important links in the chain of public information activities maintained by the United Nations, serving not only as news-disseminating agencies but also as centres for keeping Headquarters informed on the trends of public opinion in various areas. They should be so distributed as to render the maximum of service.

69. Local conditions varied, and he was glad to see that Sub-Committee 8 had laid special emphasis on that fact.

70. Information media were especially needed in under-developed countries; and a centre serving an area with a small population should be run on different lines from that serving a populous region.

71. The Karachi Information Centre had an uphill task to carry out its duties as it was seriously understaffed. The centre served 76 million people living in the Sind, the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and East Bengal. In each province a different language was spoken, and each of those languages should be catered for. He therefore suggested that the staff of the Karachi Information Centre should be increased by one second officer and a proportionate number of general service personnel. He did not wish to propose an increase in the appropriations recommended by the Advisory Committee, but thought that part of the staff of an information centre in a country having more highly-developed information media might be transferred to Karachi.

72. Mr. CARRIZOSA (Colombia) supported the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee for section 13, since he did not think that they would seriously jeopardize the work of the Department of Public Information. He could not, however, support any further reduction.

73. As a result of the reductions made during the past years, the budget of the Department of Public Information had reached rock-bottom, and the Department could not work effectively if further reductions were made. No long-range work could be planned if insufficient funds were allocated to the Department.

74. He did not think that any progress would be made by reopening the debate on the principles adopted by Sub-Committee 8 at the General Assembly's sixth session.

75. Lord CALDECOTE (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had made its views known during the general debate. In view of the short time available at the General Assembly's sixth session for discussing the proposals of Sub-Committee 8, however, it could not agree with the Secretary-General's statement that they should not be further discussed at the present session.

76. The United Kingdom delegation had been extremely disappointed with the action taken on the Sub-

committee's recommendations. It was clear that the Department of Public Information should be given more precise instructions.

He agreed with the representatives of the Netherlands and Israel that a level of expenditure should be brought down, and the Department requested to submit proposals on work programmes, the merits and priorities of which would be considered by the Fifth Committee at the General Assembly's eighth session. He reserved his right to propose some such resolution on second reading.

It was the General Assembly's responsibility to determine the level of expenditure, and the Department concerned should provide all the necessary information on which the Fifth Committee could base its decisions. It was difficult to go into that matter now, and as the Advisory Committee had already carefully considered the question his delegation felt that its recommendation could be supported. He hoped, however, that a vote could not be taken on the Advisory Committee's recommendation and the various other proposals made until the following meeting.

Referring to the statements of certain representatives who seemed to think that the United Kingdom delegation wished to abolish information services in countries which were not well provided with information media, he emphasized that any reductions made could be borne by all countries. His delegation did not wish to curtail United Nations information activities, but it should be borne in mind that in the present circumstances excessive expenditure might cripple United Nations work.

Although his Government had the highest opinion of the London Information Centre, it would be quite prepared to see it bear a fair share of any economies made.

Mr. ZARUBIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he had listened carefully to all statements on the budget estimates for information services.

82. Referring to the Ecuadorean representative's remarks at the previous meeting, he said that the statement that the Soviet Union opposed all United Nations information activities was false. The Soviet Union had never taken such an attitude.

83. Emphasizing the fact that the budget of the Department of Public Information amounted to 11.5 per cent of the entire United Nations budget, he drew the Committee's attention to observations in the Advisory Committee's report (A/2157). In addition, the remarks contained in the Advisory Committee's second report to the fifth session of the General Assembly (A/1312) also applied to the 1953 budget estimates for the Department of Public Information. Those estimates had not taken into account the decisions reached by the Fifth Committee at the fifth session. The observations of Sub-Committee 8 and paragraphs 185, 186 and 187 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/2157) should be borne in mind by the Fifth Committee in reaching a decision.

84. He supported the Polish representative's proposal that the Advisory Committee should study and submit to the Fifth Committee at its present session concrete proposals for the establishment of criteria for the Department of Public Information, and that a reduction of \$250,000, in addition to that recommended by the Advisory Committee, should be made in section 13 of the budget. Such a small reduction could not in any way impair the work of the Department of Public Information.

85. The CHAIRMAN declared the general discussion of section 13 closed. Summarizing the proposals made by the Polish, Australian, Ecuadorean and Chinese representatives, he said that they would be circulated in writing to the members of the Committee for discussion and voting at the following meeting.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.