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

Appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly

[Item 42]*

1. The CHAIRMAN, replying to a question by Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands) referring to appointments to fill vacancies in the membership of subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly, said that the lists of nominations were now available and suggested that elections should be held as soon as the second reading of the budget had been completed.

Supplementary estimates for 1951: report of the Secretary-General (A/2006, A/C.5/466)

[Item 40]*

2. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the report by the Secretary-General on the supplementary estimates for the financial year 1951 (A/C.5/466) and to the fourteenth report of 1951 of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/2006). Subject to certain observations, the Advisory Committee recommended that the amount of \$47,798,600 appropriated for the financial year 1951 under General Assembly resolution 471 (V) of 15 December 1950 should be increased by \$126,900 to \$48,925,500. The figure of \$1,126,900 represented the total of the supplementary provision proposed by the Secretary-General (\$1,454,400), less the amount of \$327,500 for the provision of insignia to personnel of United Nations

armed forces in Korea, which would be included in the 1952 estimates under section 5.

3. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway), referring to paragraph 4 of the Advisory Committee's report, asked what the 1952 figure would be for the reimbursement of national income taxes paid by staff members of the United Nations. He noted that authority had been granted by the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to make such reimbursement in respect of the year 1951 or in respect of previous years. He wondered whether reimbursement for previous years had been completed and felt that it should be possible for the Secretary-General to include a sum in the 1952 budget for the reimbursement of such taxes and that a supplementary estimate should not be submitted.

4. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) said that the amount required in 1952 for the reimbursement of such taxes, based on information at present available, would be approximately the same as for 1951, namely \$1,400,000, unless the United States Government granted immunity to its citizens among United Nations staff.

5. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) asked the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions whether it would not be a sounder method of budgeting to include the sum required for the reimbursement of national taxes, \$1,400,000, in the regular 1952 budget.

6. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said his reply would be psychological and not technical and therefore might not satisfy the Norwegian representative. He wished to be optimistic always and therefore hoped that some day the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations would be ratified by all Member States.

* Indicates the item number on the General Assembly agenda.

7. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) felt that it was safer to be pessimistic rather than optimistic when budgeting, and asked the Advisory Committee to bear that thought in mind when studying the 1953 budget estimates.

8. Mr. POLLOCK (Canada), referring to annex D, part II, section (ii) of the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/466), wondered whether the provision of \$70,000 under item (g) for the prepayment of fire and equipment damage insurance premiums on the permanent Headquarters Secretariat building was justified. He thought the principle of self-insurance might be applied to the Headquarters buildings.

9. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) said the Secretary-General had carefully considered the question of self-insurance for the Headquarters buildings. The buildings were, however, such a concentrated risk that one fire might cause very great damage and be such a heavy extra burden upon Member States that it had been felt wiser to meet the risk by insuring with a private firm. The principle of self-insurance had, however, already been adopted in other cases.

10. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), criticizing the way in which the Secretary-General's report on supplementary estimates for the financial year 1951 had been prepared, pointed out that although the Secretary-General stated that the supplementary estimates totalled \$1,454,400, they in reality amounted to \$2,987,000.

11. The USSR delegation could not support the supplementary appropriations requested under the following headings: reimbursement of national income tax paid by staff members of the United Nations; telephone, cable, telegraph, wireless and postal services; the provision of insignia to personnel participating in Korea; and temporary staff and consultants to assist the Executive Office of the Secretary-General in work arising out of General Assembly resolution 377 (V) of 3 November 1950 entitled "Uniting for Peace" and resolution 494 (V) of 20 November 1950 on the development of a twenty-year programme for achieving peace through the United Nations. In connexion with the last two items, he emphasized that the USSR delegation had voted against both the resolutions in question. His delegation also could not support the supplementary appropriation requested in connexion with the extended fifth session of the General Assembly and the additional sum requested for the Department of Conference and General Services. The supplementary appropriations requested were unjustified and showed that the Administration had failed to exercise economy in dealing with United Nations funds. Expenses in connexion with the items for which supplementary appropriations had been requested should be met from existing reserves.

12. His delegation did not, however, object to the supplementary appropriations requested in connexion with equipment for the Headquarters buildings which had been authorized in the 1950 budget; home leave travel costs for certain staff members eligible for home leave in 1952 who were serving the sixth session of the General Assembly; and the additional amount required by the International Court of Justice for printing. The USSR delegation would, however, vote against the total supplementary amount requested by the Secretary-General in his report and called the Fifth Committee's attention to the Secretariat's extravagance in administering United Nations funds.

13. Mr. HAMBRO (Norway) said he fully understood and to a certain extent shared the USSR representative's misgivings. Members of the Fifth Committee should, however, bear in mind that the Secretary-General had had to submit supplementary estimates as a result of action taken by the General Assembly and the Security Council, which had forced the Administration to spend more money than had been budgeted for.

14. Referring to paragraph 9 of the Advisory Committee's report, he drew attention to the large sums spent on mailing in connexion with United Nations Day and activities related to General Assembly resolution 377 (V), and hoped the Administration would note the Advisory Committee's warning in that connexion.

15. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil), supporting the additional appropriations requested, said the funds involved had already been spent and therefore would have to be approved by the Fifth Committee.

16. Pointing out that the Secretary-General could either draw on the Working Capital Fund or make transfers in the budget to cover the amounts requested under supplementary estimates, he considered that a list should be submitted of the items financed from the Working Capital Fund which had not been included in the regular budget.

17. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the amount of \$47,798,500 appropriated for the financial year 1951 under General Assembly resolution 471 (V) of 15 December 1950 should be increased by \$1,126,900 to the figure of \$48,925,500. The figure of \$1,126,900 represented the total of the supplementary provision proposed by the Secretary-General (\$1,454,400) less the amount of \$327,500 referred to in paragraph 11 of the Advisory Committee's report.

The Advisory Committee's recommendation was approved by 37 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

18. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) hoped that in approving the Advisory Committee's recommendation the Fifth Committee had also approved the suggestion made in paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report.

19. The CHAIRMAN assumed that, in approving the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in its report, the Fifth Committee had approved the suggestion made in paragraph 6 of that report. In any case, particular reference to paragraph 6 would be made in the Rapporteur's report.

20. Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands) supported the remarks of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

Budget estimates for the financial year 1952: (a) Budget estimates prepared by the Secretary-General (A/1812 and Add.1, A/C.5/452, A/C.5/469, A/C.5/474, A/C.5/475); (b) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/1853, A/1988)

[Item 41]*

Increase in the amount of the Working Capital Fund (continued)

21. The CHAIRMAN, recalling the discussion during the 301st meeting on the proposal contained in the note by the Secretary-General on an increase in the

amount of the Working Capital Fund (A/C.5/452), referred to paragraph 10 of the Advisory Committee's eleventh report of 1951 (A/1988) which recommended, on a provisional basis, that the balance on surplus account (\$1,239,000) available for application against assessments for the year 1952 should be transferred to the Working Capital Fund, and not used as hitherto to reduce annual assessments. It further suggested that the General Assembly at its seventh session might re-examine the position and either confirm the transfer of the balance mentioned supplementing it, if necessary, by further balances on surplus account, or direct that the balance already transferred be applied against the 1953 assessments.

22. Mr. MELAS (Greece) felt that expenditure would be encouraged if the Working Capital Fund were increased. Emphasizing that Member States who paid their contributions promptly, in spite of great financial difficulties, were now being asked to make additional advances to the Working Capital Fund because other Member States were in arrears with their contributions, he suggested that steps should be taken to ensure that the defaulting Members paid the sums they owed.

23. Mr. POLLOCK (Canada), referring to previous discussions on the item before the Committee, at which his delegation had expressed its views, said that one of the opinions expressed at that time directly referred to the question raised by the Greek representative, and also to the question of the relationship of the Working Capital Fund with other expenses of the Organization.

24. His delegation was prepared to accept the Advisory Committee's proposal, but suggested that in the Rapporteur's report specific attention should be given to the question of arrears and other issues raised at earlier discussions.

25. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil), agreeing with the Advisory Committee's recommendation, supported the Greek representative's statement. The increase in the Working Capital Fund was in fact due to arrears in contributions. He felt, however, that the Committee should face realities and ensure that the budget as adopted before the end of the financial year should make provision for all expenditures that could reasonably be foreseen.

26. He drew the Committee's attention to the fact that, according to the Secretary-General's note (A/C.5/452), any savings effected in the budget should be transferred to the Working Capital Fund. He had no objection to that, but felt that, in future, before any such sums were transferred, deductions should be made to cover any new item that had been financed from the Working Capital Fund.

27. He suggested that all representatives should call the attention of their Governments to the problem which the United Nations was facing as a result of arrears and late payment of contributions. If those problems were largely solved, there would be no need to increase the Working Capital Fund.

28. Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) said that his delegation would view an increase in the Working Capital Fund with reluctance, as that would aggravate its dollar shortage problem. It was clear that an increase would not be necessary if the problem of arrears in national contributions could be solved, or if some method of collecting contributions earlier in the year could be

arranged. The difficult period apparently was in March-April, when very few contributions from governments had yet come in and the reserve in the Working Capital Fund was dangerously low.

29. Governments therefore had two alternatives before them: either to agree to an increase in the Working Capital Fund or to make arrangements to pay at least a substantial proportion of their contributions in the first quarter of the year, and possibly the remainder within the first six months. He appreciated the difficulty involved in adopting the second alternative, as it might in some cases mean making changes in national financial procedures. However, governments might be willing, in the course of the next year, to consider ways of making their payments earlier. A further possibility, though a rather drastic one, would be to require the Secretary-General to limit his expenditure to the amount likely to be received. He would like to hear the comments of delegations on those two proposals.

30. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) explained that the Secretary-General had felt bound to draw the Fifth Committee's attention to the fact that in 1951 the Working Capital Fund had sometimes been at a very low level. Delegations would readily understand the need for a reserve such as would ensure ability to pay expenses for a reasonable time ahead.

31. Replying to the Australian representative, he said that the Secretary-General fully agreed that, if national contributions were received within the first quarter of the year, the need to increase the Fund would not arise. In the annual letter to Member Governments, financial regulation 5/4, concerning payment within thirty days, was always quoted. After sending that letter it was difficult for the Secretary-General to do anything more than remind Member Governments of their obligations from time to time.

32. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) felt that the point raised by the Australian representative was of great importance. The adjustment of expenditure to receipts during a given fiscal year seemed to the Advisory Committee to present insurmountable obstacles, as the payment of contributions was delayed throughout the year and even into the following year. In 1949 the General Assembly had recommended that specialized agencies should adjust their expenditure to the volume of contributions reasonably anticipated in respect of 1950 (resolution 311 C (IV)). The actual date of receipt was not the material consideration but the amount of contributions which each agency expected to receive annually, irrespective of the exact date of receipt.

33. Mr. RECHENDORFF (Denmark) said that, in principle, his delegation was opposed to any increase in the Working Capital Fund and thought that, as suggested by previous speakers, other ways of solving the problem should be sought. However, it accepted the Advisory Committee's proposal contained in paragraph 10 of its report concerning the transfer to the Working Capital Fund, on a provisional basis, of the balance on surplus account.

34. Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa) said that, when the loan to the Food and Agriculture Organization had been considered in the previous year, assurance had been given that it would not impair the state of the Working Capital Fund. He wondered whether the

dangerous situation which had occurred later could not have been foreseen at that time. He did not wish to suggest that the granting of the loan was the sole reason for that situation and he was aware of the fact that it was being repaid, but greater care seemed necessary in future in recommending such loans. The purpose of the Working Capital Fund was to safeguard the financial solvency of the United Nations itself, and, in spite of the desire to help the agencies, it seemed to be the duty of the Secretary-General not to recommend further loans if the financial structure of the United Nations was likely to be imperilled thereby.

35. As had been pointed out, the real reason for the need of an increase was arrears in contributions, and that problem was not solved by increasing the Fund. His delegation was prepared to support the Advisory Committee's recommendation for a transfer on the understanding that it would be on a provisional basis.

36. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat), replying to the South African representative, explained the circumstances of the loan to FAO. As United Nations monthly expenditure was about four times the size of the loan granted, it had been difficult to refuse so relatively small a sum. Moreover, the United Nations had in any case succeeded in meeting its financial obligations in 1951. The Committee would recognize that, in view of the uncertainty of the dates on which contributions from governments could be expected, it was difficult to judge with complete accuracy what the financial position would be six months ahead. If the Secretary-General had known beforehand that it would become necessary to draw so heavily on the Working Capital Fund, he would probably not have recommended the loan.

37. Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa) thanked Mr. Andersen for his explanations, but felt that there were none the less some grounds for apprehension in view of the fact that, thirteen months after granting a loan, the Secretary-General was asking for a 25 per cent increase in the Working Capital Fund.

38. Mr. ADARKAR (India) associated himself with the remarks of the Greek, Brazilian and South African representatives concerning the connexion between arrears in contributions and the request for an increase in the Working Capital Fund. The problem appeared likely to be a perennial one, and it would therefore be better to go to the root of it, not merely to suggest palliatives. Advances made to the Working Capital Fund by some governments in fact amounted to financing the arrears of others, and, in so far as loans were made to specialized agencies, it perhaps amounted to financing their arrears also. He referred to the business-like manner in which the problem of contributions was faced by the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, each being called upon to explain its arrears in full session. A similar procedure, together with a possible curtailment of voting rights, might be useful in the United Nations, although it was of course true that some delays in paying contributions were excusable.

39. In any case, it was clear that the present arrangement, by which some governments paid their contributions early in the year and some late, led to inequitable results. He wondered whether it would be possible to arrange for all contributions to be payable by August of each year. If any concrete pro-

posals for better arrangements were made, his Government would be very ready to consider them. The Advisory Committee's proposal concerning a transfer to the Working Capital Fund was of immediate practical value, but as the problem was really a long-term one possible alternative arrangements, including proposals which delegations might make, should be studied by that Committee with a view to their application in the future.

40. With regard to the Secretary-General's proposals in document A/C.5/452, the Indian delegation would favour the procedure suggested in paragraph (c), subject to one reservation, namely, that the transfer should be postponed for one year to allow time for any proposed new arrangements to be studied.

41. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) suggested that the Secretary-General might usefully approach governments individually to find out at what time of year they could most conveniently pay their contributions. Governments which were normally among the later contributors might find some means of altering their arrangements. In any case, such a survey as he proposed would facilitate the approach to the problem next year.

42. Mr. BRENNAN (Australia) noted that there seemed to be general agreement that an increase in the Working Capital Fund should be avoided if possible, and that the real problem lay in the arrears in contributions. But the need for an increase arose almost as much from the fact that some payments were not received early enough in the year as from the arrears which extended into the following year. In view of the general desire to avoid an increase, perhaps governments could consider ways of paying their contributions earlier. One way might be to make some provisional appropriation for their United Nations contribution in the year before it was actually due. He proposed that Member Governments be invited to examine methods whereby, within the limits of their constitutional processes, a substantial proportion of their contributions might be paid within the first quarter of each year; and should report to the next session of the General Assembly on the result of that examination.

43. Another helpful measure might be to include in the 1952 budget a provision for the reimbursement of staff members' national income tax. The supplementary amount required for the reimbursement of national income tax was \$1,400,000 whereas the balance on surplus account, which it was proposed should be transferred to augment the Working Capital Fund, was \$1,239,000. He was aware that that procedure would not lighten the financial burden on governments, but it might represent more realistic budgeting and serve to retain the Working Capital Fund at its present amount without imperilling the United Nations finances. He would be glad to hear the views of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on his suggestion.

44. Mr. AGHNIDES (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that his answer to the Australian representative was essentially the same as the one he had made to the Norwegian representative.

45. Replying to the point raised by the Indian representative, he explained that the Advisory Committee believed that, as the really critical period for United Nations finances might be expected early in 1953, in proposing an increase in the Working Capital Fund

as from 1952 it would at least be providing the Secretary-General with some means with which to face that period when it came.

46. Mr. ABBASI (Pakistan) pointed out that, if the difficult period was likely to occur early in 1953, it did not seem necessary to increase the Working Capital Fund immediately. His Government shared the view expressed by a number of previous speakers that a decision to increase the Working Capital Fund should not be taken until alternative ways of solving the problem had been considered.

47. The CHAIRMAN stated that the Canadian delegation had asked him to confirm that a special reference would be made in the Committee's report, first, to the need for careful attention being paid to all aspects of the question, including the direct relationship between the payment of arrears and the size of the Working Capital Fund, the need for early payment of all contributions and the effect of special demands, for example for extra-budgetary programmes or loans to agencies, on the adequacy of the Working Capital Fund, and secondly to the desire expressed by certain delegations that all aspects of the question should be fully explored and appropriate recommendations made by the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee during the course of 1952. He assured the Canadian delegation that that would be done.

48. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that the USSR delegation had consistently adhered to the view that the annual budget of the United Nations should be stabilized at \$35,000,000 and the Working Capital Fund at \$20,000,000. He was therefore obliged to oppose the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the balance on surplus account available for application against assessments for the year 1952 should be transferred to the Working Capital Fund, even as a provisional step.

The recommendations contained in the Advisory Committee's eleventh report of 1951 (A/1988) were approved by 37 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions.

49. The CHAIRMAN said that a draft resolution formalizing the recommendation contained in paragraph 10 of the Advisory Committee's report would be submitted to the Fifth Committee at an appropriate time.

50. He drew the Committee's attention to the Australian representative's proposal that Member Governments be invited to examine methods whereby, within the limits of their constitutional processes, a substantial proportion of their contributions might be paid within the first quarter of each year, and that they should report the results of such examination to the General Assembly at its seventh session.

51. Replying to Mr. MACHADO (Brazil), the CHAIRMAN stated that adoption of the Australian representative's proposal would not prevent the suggestion the Brazilian delegation had made from being further considered.

52. Mr. VORYS (United States of America) said that he could only support the Australian representative's proposal if it entailed no commitment on the part of governments.

53. The CHAIRMAN thought that that was clear from its wording.

The Australian representative's proposal was adopted by 38 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

54. The CHAIRMAN indicated that the proposal which had just been adopted would be incorporated in the formal draft resolution on the Working Capital Fund which, as he had already stated, would be submitted to the Committee.

55. Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands) said that, although her delegation would have preferred more time to consider the Australian representative's proposal, it had supported it on the understanding that it did not entail any commitment on the part of governments.

56. Mr. BUSTAMANTE (Mexico) said that he had voted in favour of approving the Advisory Committee's eleventh report on the clear understanding that the recommendation contained in paragraph 10 was subject to review. The Australian proposal he had been able to support only because it was clear from its wording that it did not recommend any modification of present constitutional processes.

First reading (continued)

PART I, SECTION 1. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES; PART VIII, SECTION 25. OFFICIAL RECORDS: REVISED ESTIMATES

57. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the report by the Secretary-General on supplementary estimates for sections 1 and 25 as a result of the extension of the General Assembly into 1952 (A/C.5/469), which merely proposed the transfer of appropriations from 1951 to 1952.

The proposal contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/469) was unanimously approved.

PART II, SECTION 5. INVESTIGATIONS AND INQUIRIES; SECTION 5a. UNITED NATIONS FIELD SERVICE

58. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) pointed out that in document A/C.5/474 the Secretary-General proposed that the General Assembly adopt a provisional budget before the Christmas recess so as to give him the necessary authority to incur obligations and make payments during the early part of 1952 and enable him as soon as possible to request Member Governments to remit at least a substantial part of their contributions for 1952, thus avoiding the necessity of further inroads on the Working Capital Fund.

59. Against that background, the Secretary-General suggested that provisional appropriations of \$2,800,000 and \$600,000 be made for sections 5 and 5a respectively (A/C.5/475). Those amounts represented as accurate estimates of the sums that would actually be required as it was possible to make at present, but detailed estimates for some of the missions had still to be prepared.

60. The fact that the Secretary-General proposed a provisional appropriation of \$2,800,000 for section 5, whereas the Advisory Committee in its second report of 1951 (A/1853) had recommended an appropriation of \$2,500,000, was due to the transfer of a certain proportion (approximately \$300,000) of the total procurement cost of Korean service medals from 1951 to 1952.

61. Miss WITTEVEEN (Netherlands) pointed out that the Advisory Committee had only approved a lump-sum appropriation for section 5; if the Secretary-

General's proposals for apportioning the total sum among the various chapters were to be considered, it would seem necessary to follow the normal procedure, providing for a report by the Advisory Committee.

62. Mr. FOURIE (Union of South Africa) recalled that when the creation of a United Nations Field Service had been under consideration, the Secretariat had claimed that it would result in substantial savings on missions. He hoped that the Committee would at some stage be informed how far those hopes were being fulfilled.

63. The CHAIRMAN said that he understood that that information would be given when the detailed estimates for the various chapters of section 5 were submitted.

64. Mr. ADARKAR (India) pointed out that the procedure proposed in document A/C.5/474 would apply to many other sections besides sections 5 and 5a. A decision should first be taken therefore with regard to that proposal.

65. Mr. MACHADO (Brazil) said that if governments were asked for their contributions in two parts, each country's parliamentary machinery for voting appropriations would have to be set in motion twice, and the delay in final receipt of contributions would be even greater than at present. Moreover, the psychological effect of requesting governments to remit their contributions earlier and at the same time failing to inform them of their final assessment until well into the year to which they related could be well imagined. The Committee would be better advised to approve the proposed appropriations as final and to request the Secretary-General to exercise particular care as to how they were spent. It should also approve the relevant comments made by the Advisory Committee in document A/1853, since they raised questions of principle.

66. Mr. VORYS (United States of America) agreed that provisional assessments would hardly encourage prompt action. Every year the United Nations budget was in a sense provisional, in that expenditure had to be adjusted in the light of events, and all Member Governments were well aware that because of the special circumstances attending the present session of the General Assembly more adjustments than usual might be necessary in 1952. That was no reason, however, why the Committee should not endeavour to draw up as accurate and reliable a budget as it

could or why the General Assembly should not approve it in the same way as it always did.

67. Mr. BUSTAMANTE (Mexico) and Lord WAKEHURST (United Kingdom) supported the point of view expressed by the United States representative and thought, with regard to section 5, that the Committee should not approve any larger appropriation than that recommended by the Advisory Committee. Lord Wakehurst added that his support was subject to the Rapporteur's report making it clear that approval of a global appropriation as proposed would in no way prejudice the detailed examination at a later stage of the individual items covered.

68. Mr. ANDERSEN (Secretariat) explained that the reason why the Secretary-General had thought it was not feasible for the General Assembly to give final approval to the 1952 budget before Christmas was that no decision had yet been taken on a number of proposals which, if adopted, would have important budgetary consequences, such as the proposal for a Headquarters cost-of-living allowance, which would require an additional appropriation of \$1,330,000 and an additional \$1,000,000 which it was intended to ask in the 1952 budget in connexion with the construction of the new Headquarters.

69. If the budget were finally approved before the Christmas recess, and any of those proposals subsequently adopted, they would have to be financed out of the Working Capital Fund.

70. The CHAIRMAN observed that the Fifth Committee's task during that part of the session which fell in 1951 was unusually difficult, since it had to establish the budget for a year during part of which the General Assembly would be able, on the recommendation of other Committees, to take decisions having budgetary consequences for that same year.

71. Mr. HSIA (China) said that he shared the concern voiced by a number of other representatives. He agreed that the total of the budget would necessarily be provisional since no decision had yet been taken on a number of items. That did not mean, however, that no items in the budget could be given final approval; in the vast majority of cases indeed there was no need to regard the proposed appropriations as provisional. On that understanding he could accept the procedure proposed by the Secretary-General in document A/C.5/474.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.