



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 20th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AMNEUS (Sweden)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative  
and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 122: PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued) (A/42/636; A/C.5/42/7 and 14)

1. Ms. YIN Shichang (China) said that the task of the Office of Human Resources Management was difficult and demanding, as it had to carry out the process of structural reform and staff reduction in a climate of financial stringency. Over the past year the Office had covered much ground in carrying out its complicated work, and her delegation had noted that, even during the recruitment freeze, the number of unrepresented countries had been reduced by two and progress had clearly been made in promoting the status of women in the Secretariat. For the first time, the ratio of women holding posts subject to geographical distribution exceeded 25 per cent and new guidelines had been issued to facilitate the promotion of women. All those achievements deserved recognition.
2. Although her delegation had always supported streamlining the Secretariat, it believed that streamlining should avoid a negative impact on programme delivery. As pointed out at the previous session, during the discussion of the relevant recommendation of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, staff reductions should be carried out in accordance with specific conditions and the Secretary-General should carry out his task with flexibility.
3. The recruitment freeze approved by the General Assembly to alleviate the financial crisis was a contingency measure, and, although it had already resulted in savings, it could only be provisional and should not be extended indefinitely or applied across the board. Still less should it be used as the chief means of streamlining the Secretariat, since it would certainly have a negative impact on the realization of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, on the speedy rectification of underrepresentation and overrepresentation, and on the necessary replenishment of staff. It would also be detrimental to the interests of those countries whose staff served primarily on fixed-term contracts. For all those reasons, her delegation considered that there should be adjustments to the recruitment freeze which would make it less stringent or not apply at all to recruitment from unrepresented or underrepresented countries or countries whose staff served primarily on fixed-term contracts.
4. During the reform process, an appropriate ratio should be maintained between the number of staff serving on fixed-term contracts and those holding permanent appointments. Permanent appointments were necessary in so far as they ensured the continuity of work and enabled the United Nations to keep a contingent of experienced staff well-versed in their tasks. However, permanent appointments also had shortcomings, which could be remedied through fixed-term contracts, which allowed for a constant replenishment of the work-force by fresh recruits with the updated knowledge required by the Organization. Fixed-term contracts also gave more flexibility, by facilitating the adjustment of the size of the work-force according to changes in the work-load; they helped to resolve the problem of having to accommodate staff with seniority by upgrading their posts; and they prevented

(Ms. Yin Shichang, China)

staff from falling prey to indolence after obtaining permanent contracts which assured them of tenure without due regard to their performance. When fixed-term staff performed well and were needed for a specific task, their contracts could be extended, which also helped to solve the question of continuity. For those reasons, the proportion of fixed-term contracts should be somewhat increased instead of reduced. Unfortunately, over the past year, the proportion had fallen from 36.1 per cent to 32.3 per cent. Her delegation hoped that the Secretary-General would take measures to remedy that situation, which discriminated against countries whose staff served mainly on fixed-term contracts.

5. Staff reduction should not be applied across the board to all offices and departments at the same rate. A higher rate could be set for departments and offices with redundant personnel, whereas a low rate or even no reduction could be set for those with a greater work-load, such as the Department of Conference Services, which would have a full schedule for the next two years and whose work-load would not decrease because of the reform.

6. On the question of desirable ranges for the geographical distribution of staff in the Professional category and above, and the base figure for calculating those ranges, she said that, according to the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/42/7), the current number of posts subject to geographical distribution was 3,059 and the actual number of staff was 2,594. Given that, in determining the base figure, the total number of posts, both occupied and vacant, should be taken into account, that the figure should not be much higher than the actual number of staff, and that, by the end of 1989, the number of posts subject to geographical distribution would be reduced to 2,633, the report presented two base figures, namely, 2,700 and 2,550. General Assembly resolution 41/206 indicated the desirability of the base figure being related to the actual number of posts. However, in determining the base figure, consideration should also be given to the flexibility enjoyed by the Secretary-General in personnel matters. Accordingly, the question of what would be an appropriate base figure should be studied further. In the mean time, the base figure could be fixed at slightly more than 2,700. Once geographical posts had been reduced to about 2,600, by 1989, 2,700 could be taken as the base figure.

7. Regarding the weight given to the membership and contribution factors, she said that the membership factor was an expression of the principle of sovereign equality of all Member States which was established in the Charter. Fuller implementation of that principle was conducive to a more equitable composition of the Secretariat, ensuring the fairer representation of all countries. In practice, however, even if the membership factor was given more weight, the contribution factor continued to count very heavily. Her delegation supported the proposal to give more weight to the membership factor, in the hope that countries which held different views would understand that desire of the majority of Member States, respect the principle of sovereign equality among States, and make the necessary concessions so that the question could be solved in a spirit of compromise.

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8. On the question of the flexibility of desirable ranges, her delegation shared the view that flexibility should be the same both upwards and downwards from the mid-point. It considered that the present flexibility of 15 per cent both upwards and downwards was appropriate and could be maintained without change.

9. As to the adjustment procedures between general reviews, her delegation considered that, for the sake of simplicity and to maintain the weight of the population factor as it was, the number of posts related to the population factor could be adjusted according to the existing percentage weight, and the remaining posts assigned equally to the membership and contribution factors. The way in which the weights of the membership and contribution factors would be adjusted whenever a new Member State was admitted to the United Nations would be studied after the weights given to each of those factors had been determined.

10. On the population factor, she recalled that in 1962 the General Assembly had decided that, in calculating desirable ranges, the population factor would be used as one among others, which would enable due attention to be paid to the world's population distribution. However, for more than 20 years, the population factor had never been really used. In her delegation's view, that state of affairs should be changed. The population factor should be duly reflected in the desirable ranges of Member States and posts subject to that factor should be allotted to each Member. Contrary to what some delegations might feel, that measure, far from harming the interests of certain countries, would in varying degrees benefit a considerable number of them.

11. Resolution 41/206 specified that posts subject to the population factor, representing 7.2 per cent of the total, should be allocated to Member States in proportion to their population. That criterion, which was one of those to be used by the Secretary-General in making updated calculations of desirable ranges, involved two aspects: one was the weight given to the population factor and the other was how to allocate the posts subject to the population factor to Member States. Moreover, resolution 35/210 had assigned a weight of 7.2 per cent to the population factor and a weight of about 93 per cent to the other two factors. Her delegation considered that the weight assigned to the population factor was appropriate, since it reflected the requirement to give proper consideration to the population factor while maintaining a balanced relationship with the other two factors.

12. With regard to the distribution of posts allotted to the population factor, her delegation had proposed - and the General Assembly had accepted in resolution 41/206 - calculation of the population factor for certain countries with especially large populations at a progressively reduced rate (A/C.5/42/7, para. 12). The intention of that proposal had been to limit the benefits which might be derived from the population factor, in order that such benefits might be shared by more countries, and to avoid the imbalance which might result from the disparity between the populations of various countries. If the progressive reduction formula was applied, the figure used in the calculation for China's population would be 44 per cent less than its real total.

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13. In addition, the population factor should in keeping with its name, be used in connection with population and not, as had been the practice so far, as a factor of flexibility. The flexibility needed by the Secretary-General to deal with personnel questions could be achieved through other more appropriate means. Those included, for example, the adoption of a base figure slightly higher than the actual number of posts and the acceptance of flexibility downwards and upwards from the mid-point of the desirable ranges, both of which measures enjoyed her delegation's support.

14. With regard to the effects of the population factor on overrepresentation, she said that application of that factor would not reduce the desirable ranges of any country but that, on the contrary, the ranges of various countries would increase to a greater or lesser extent; the number of overrepresented countries would be reduced; and the number of posts in excess of the ranges of those countries which remained overrepresented would decrease or remain the same but not increase.

15. The current method of calculating desirable ranges had been established seven years earlier and had certain irrational features; it was therefore necessary to make changes and adjustments to it. The system of desirable ranges was of great importance in the attainment of a more rational representation of Member States in the Secretariat, and it was therefore to be hoped that all delegations would approach the issue in a spirit of co-operation, understanding and conciliation, so that an agreement might be reached and a decision taken on that subject at the current session.

16. Mr. MURRAY (Trinidad and Tobago) said that tribute should be paid, in the current financial crisis, to the dedication and loyalty of the United Nations staff. In considering personnel questions, therefore, attention must be paid to the need to apply personnel and human resources management policies which would ensure that the Organization was provided with an efficient and highly motivated staff.

17. His country shared the concern over detentions of United Nations staff members expressed in resolution 41/205 and fully supported the Secretary-General's efforts to secure the release of detained officials and to ensure respect for their privileges and immunities.

18. With respect to the geographical distribution of staff in the Professional category and above, he said that, of the overall number of staff were to be reduced, the desirable range of each Member State would also be reduced, although such a reduction would be proportionally greater in the lower than in the higher ranges. Furthermore, although the contribution factor continued to carry more weight than the membership and population factors, those States whose contributions had been increased under the current scale of assessments would now see their ranges reduced. A distinction must be made between the number of available or budgeted posts and the number of posts actually filled, which was subject to constant change. His delegation would prefer that use be made of the number of available posts. The Fifth Committee would also have to decide how to achieve

(Mr. Murray, Trinidad and Tobago)

parity between the membership and contribution factors. In the current circumstances, it would appear appropriate to establish parity immediately. The same held for any decision on the population factor.

19. In considering the new system of desirable ranges, the Fifth Committee should keep in mind the need to ensure access to the Secretariat for nationals of all Member States, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. It might perhaps be necessary to seek other means and methods in order to implement a new system of desirable ranges which would be sufficiently flexible to accommodate changes in the number of Secretariat posts during and subsequent to the period of reform. His country was prepared to co-operate in the elaboration of clear guidelines which would ensure the recruitment of creative and competent staff on as wide a geographical base as possible.

20. Mr. MAKTARI (Yemen) requested clarification of a passage in document A/C.5/42/14, in which reference was made to the Israel Defence Forces in Lebanon. In his opinion, the purpose of the Israeli forces was one of occupation rather than defence.

21. The CHAIRMAN said that the point would be clarified at the first available opportunity.

AGENDA ITEM 115: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989 (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 116: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 41: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS; REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 43: CURRENT FINANCIAL CRISIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

General debate (A/42/3, A/42/6 and Corr.1, A/42/7 and Add.2, A/42/16 (Part I) and Add.1 and A/42/16 (Part II), A/42/214, A/42/225 and Add.1, A/42/234 and Corr.1, A/42/283, 512, 532 and 640; A/C.5/42/2/Rev.1)

22. Mr. BEREUTER (United States of America) said that the proposed budget for the biennium 1988-1989 which was currently before the Fifth Committee represented an important step forward. While each of the past two biennial budget submissions had called for increases of more than \$100 million, the initial estimates of \$1.68 billion for the biennium 1988-1989 were approximately \$30 million lower than the revised appropriations for 1986-1987. In addition, higher vacancy rates had been used to reflect reductions in staffing and proposals had been made for cuts in spending on official travel and consultants.

23. Nevertheless, the amounts requested for the coming biennium were substantially higher than expected expenditures for the current biennium, which would amount to some \$150 million less than the budgeted level. The actual expenditures for 1986-1987, which reflected the number of staff actually employed by the

(Mr. Bereuter, United States)

Organization and their relationship to the amounts requested for the coming biennium, should be taken into account in the Committee's deliberations, as they had been in the analysis undertaken by the Advisory Committee.

24. The Advisory Committee's treatment of each budget section was significantly different from that of previous years. For the first time, the Advisory Committee had adjusted the Secretary-General's budget proposals to take into account balances of unobligated funds and savings on unliquidated obligations which had occurred in previous bienniums.

25. The largest reduction, amounting to approximately \$31.7 million, arose from the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the turnover deduction rates for the Professional and General Service categories used to calculate the proposed budget should be revised upward by 2.5 per cent, thus raising them to a level which would provide the Secretary-General with more flexibility in carrying out staff reductions. While believing that such flexibility might be excessive, his delegation supported the vacancy rates proposed by the Advisory Committee. It also endorsed the proposal to reduce the 1988-1989 budget estimates by \$10 million, to take into account the anticipated balance of unutilized appropriations at the end of the biennium. Furthermore, it concurred with the recommendation that the Secretariat should examine the possibility of refining the current methodology - which based the initial budget estimates for a new biennium on the revised appropriations rather than on the actual expenditures for the previous biennium - in order to make allowance for that source of overbudgeting. It also agreed with the recommendation to reduce by \$3.1 million the amount requested for temporary conference-servicing assistance, as well as the recommendations for reductions in spending on travel, consultants and publications.

26. He regretted that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had not been able to assume its new budgetary responsibilities during its September 1987 session, despite having agreed to do so previously. Although the Committee's deliberations had served to identify a number of technical issues which needed to be addressed, they had not produced any recommendation on either the level of the budget or the contingency fund.

27. Initially, the resources of the contingency fund were to be used to finance all the new programmes and activities approved by the General Assembly during the biennium but not included in the proposed budget. His delegation agreed with ACABQ that the establishment of that type of fund was only one step towards the comprehensive solution to the problem of budget add-ons. He looked forward to receiving the Secretary-General's proposals and ACABQ's recommendations on the issue at the forty-third session.

28. Concerning the operation of the contingency fund, the United States endorsed the procedures outlined in paragraphs 12 to 14 of ACABQ's report, which met many of the concerns expressed by delegations regarding the options presented by the Secretary-General. No provision had, however, been made for the implementation of paragraph 9 of annex I of resolution 41/213. His delegation also supported the

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Advisory Committee's recommendation that each statement of programme budget implications and each proposal for revised estimates should contain a specific plan to implement new activities through redeployment rather than additional expenditures. The Secretary-General was already required by paragraph 7 of resolution 38/227 to present such funding options to the General Assembly.

29. The issue of the level of the contingency fund would probably be the most difficult to resolve. The Secretary-General had recommended a level of approximately \$12 million to finance additional programme expenditures during the coming bienniums. That proposal reflected the level of budget add-ons of previous biennium and took into account the revised methodology for determining the biennial budget estimates. The proposal therefore included resources for perennial political activities, additional conference-servicing requirements and construction which in the past had been provided through budget add-ons. Accordingly, the level of the fund proposed by the Secretary-General would provide the General Assembly with sufficient flexibility to finance new programmes during the coming biennium.

30. During the current session, agreement could be reached on an overall level of resources for the coming biennium exclusive of possible adjustments for changes in currency and inflation rates. His delegation could support an overall level - before recosting at exchange rates prevailing at the end of the session - at or slightly below the level recommended by ACABQ, that would include a contingency fund at the level of resources proposed by the Secretary-General. That level of funding would be sufficient to meet existing programmes and any which might be added later in the biennium. Such a decision would restore confidence in the United Nations by demonstrating the commitment of all Member States and the Secretariat to reform and economize. In adopting that position, account should be taken of the Secretary-General's intention to submit revised budget estimates to the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

31. In regard to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the reforms (A/42/234), while there had been some progress much remained to be done and those reforms should result in additional savings during the biennium 1988-1989. In that connection, he supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the Secretary-General should complete the reviews and studies currently under way in time to submit revised estimates by 1 April 1988. He agreed with the approach taken by the Secretary-General to implement the approved reforms in accordance with paragraph 13 of the progress report. The proposals before the General Assembly should be examined in the light of the Secretary-General's guidance to programme managers.

32. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that there was a need for additional progress in some areas, particularly in the economic, social and public information sectors; revised estimates reflecting savings anticipated from streamlining those areas should be submitted for review by ACABQ and CPC. Additional proposals, which should take into account the recommendations of the Special Commission, could be submitted during the forty-third session.



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33. He emphasized that resolution 41/213 would prove to be meaningless unless the Secretary-General and the Assembly implemented the kind of real reforms contemplated in that resolution. The United States continued to be vitally concerned with the reform efforts; it would be disastrous for the public perception of the United Nations if the momentum of reform were suddenly to collapse. Failure to proceed with the reforms would be extremely harmful. Conversely, successful implementation of the reforms would demonstrate that the spirit of revitalization existed among Member States. As President Reagan had stated, the United States was committed to working closely with other Member States and with the Secretary-General to see to it that the reforms were faithfully implemented and to secure the Organization's future. His delegation would do all that it could to ensure that the work of the Fifth Committee during the current session was a success.

34. Mr. DE VENECIA (Philippines) said that the General Assembly, in approving resolution 41/213, had sought to shape a more cost-efficient Organization which was nevertheless responsive to the needs of Member States, including the developing countries; it had also sought to meet the concerns of some Member States in order to induce them to reinstate contributions which had been withheld. Although the reform measures had been set in motion, the financial crisis continued unabated.

35. In view of expressions of unanimity, as in Security Council resolution 598 (1987), it was to be hoped that Member States would unreservedly accept and comply with their financial obligations. In those circumstances, a number of Member States had sought to help the Organization with special contributions and it had been heartening to hear the announcement by Japan of an emergency special contribution of \$20 million and by the Soviet Union that it would liquidate its long-standing assessed arrears.

36. His delegation strongly supported the measures taken by the Secretary-General to prevent any unnecessary drain on the meagre resources of the Organization; at the same time it congratulated him for the noticeable progress he had achieved in restructuring the Secretariat and urged him to implement the recommendations of the Group of 18 with all deliberate speed. Particularly worthy of note were the steps taken by the Secretary-General to resolve the problems arising from recommendation 15 for the reduction of high-level posts. Other recommendations, particularly recommendation 52, calling for strict application of the retirement age and recommendation 54, fixing a 10-year limit on service for under-secretaries-general and assistant secretaries-general, had not raised the same problems and the Secretary-General could and should see to it that they were implemented.

37. The budget was the essential tool in carrying out the reform process. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 had been formulated in circumstances which were hardly conducive to the preparation of a realistic budget. Since it had been drawn up prior to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 41/213, the budget could not have reflected the mandated reforms and therefore did not lend itself to critical and in-depth financial analysis, particularly since most of those reforms would take three years to complete.

(Mr. de Venecia, Philippines)

Consequently, the Advisory Committee's observation that no meaningful revised estimates could be undertaken at the current stage had come as no surprise. His delegation fully agreed with that view. It therefore considered that, instead of delving into the details of the budget, it would be better to consider more general issues which had so far remained unresolved, namely, the overall level of the budget and the contingency fund.

38. Concerning the overall level of the budget, his delegation welcomed the substantial decrease and the projected negative growth rate of 1.5 per cent. The development must however be viewed as tentative because the reforms were still in progress and vital issues, such as the treatment of inflation, exchange-rate fluctuations, "add-ons" and the contingency fund had not yet been fully resolved. The contingency fund was an integral part of any well-thought-out budget because it minimized uncertainty in the budget preparation, and increased the overall predictability of financial requirements; its effectiveness, however, would depend on how well its mechanics were formulated so that specifications must be properly drawn from the outset.

39. With regard to the size of the fund, his delegation fully supported the proposal to express it in percentage terms in the interest of flexibility. For the time being the figure should be set at a provisional level subject to adjustment as experience dictated.

40. The Secretary-General had drawn attention to the fact that the economy measures had affected programme implementation adversely. That was disturbing, especially in the light of the injunction in General Assembly resolution 41/213 that the reform measures, at least those in recommendation 15, should not prejudice implementation of approved projects and programmes. Budget reductions should not be achieved at the expense of programme implementation. To use the level of the budget as the principal yardstick for measuring efficiency in the United Nations would be short-sighted and counter-productive; that approach should therefore be proscribed. It was, in fact, reasonable to expect that future budgets would show a reasonable percentage of increase reflecting implementation of the new activities natural to a dynamic organization. Instead of simply pruning the budget it was necessary to try to achieve a greater cost-benefit ratio and to define needs and priorities clearly so as to be able to implement priority programmes effectively.

41. Although the assessed contribution of the Philippines might seem small compared to that of other countries, it represented a considerable opportunity cost for the Philippines in the current critical times, since the funds could be used to finance some major projects of the national development plan. Thus his delegation must be able to demonstrate to its people that the Philippine assessment to the United Nations was money well spent.

42. The first steps to reform had been taken, and resistance to change had been overcome, but there was a pervasive feeling of uncertainty that threatened to negate what had been accomplished. The financial crisis had hurt the Organization and had raised doubts about its capacity to survive. It was time to dispel that

(Mr. de Venecia, Philippines)

doubt. Alternatives to the current financial dependence on a single contributor must be found, but any solution must reflect the Organization's time-honoured principles, such as capacity to pay and the need to safeguard the position of smaller, developing Member States, and must be backed by the necessary political will. Some Member States had already paved the way by deciding to pay their obligations. The others must follow suit so that future generations would not have to say that the Organization had been consigned to oblivion because of indifference and lack of imagination.

AGENDA ITEM 120: PATTERN OF CONFERENCES: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES  
(continued) (A/42/32, A/C.5/42/11 and A/C.5/42/L.4)

43. Mr. SINGH (Fiji) speaking as Vice-Chairman, introducing the draft resolutions contained in document A/C.5/42/L.4, which had been formulated on the basis of informal consultations, said that draft resolution A was based on the text proposed by the Committee on Conferences in its report (A/42/32), with slight modifications. During the informal consultation some delegations had called on the Fifth Committee and the Assembly to issue guidelines for a clear definition of recommendation 1 (d) of the Group of Intergovernmental Experts, since doubt about the precise meaning and implications of that recommendation had prevented the Committee on Conferences from arriving at a consensus on its new mandate at its 1987 session. Some delegations had felt that if those doubts could not be resolved during the informal consultations, the issue could be raised again in the Committee under another agenda item. However, other delegations had opposed any discussion of the issue during the consultations pointing out that the Committee had already expressed its views on that and other recommendations of the Group of Intergovernmental Experts and that no further consideration was necessary.

44. Draft resolution B was also based on the text contained in the report of the Committee on Conferences, with the addition of a fifth paragraph. During consideration of the draft resolution a question had been raised concerning conference services provided to United Nations organs and programmes which were not funded from the regular budget of the Organization, specifically, UNDP, UNITAR, UNICEF and UNHCR. It should be recalled, in that connection, that the Committee on Conferences had concluded that it was possible that the meetings of those bodies and programmes had an impact on the programme of meetings of subsidiary bodies that were funded from the regular budget and had felt that it might be useful for the General Assembly to be informed at some point in the future of the rate at which those bodies and programmes utilized the conference resources made available to them (A/42/32, para. 49). During the consideration of that issue it had been proposed that the Secretary-General should be asked to review the arrangements for the provision of conference and related services to those bodies and programmes. Some delegations, though not all, had felt that the review should also include the financial aspects of those arrangements with a possible view to seeking reimbursement. Although the proposal had eventually been withdrawn, it had aroused considerable interest and it might reappear in the Committee in some form, under another item.

(Mr. Singh, Fiji)

45. Draft resolution C, concerning the use of languages in the United Nations, had received broad consensus; however, some delegations had accepted it strictly, ad referendum, thus it was possible that parts of the text might be challenged. In answer to a question regarding the possible consequences of the phrase "respect for equal treatment of the official languages of the United Nations" the Secretariat had stated that the phrase would not change the present practice, which was to strictly implement resolutions governing the use of languages. Accordingly, interpretation and translation services would be provided for the deliberative organs of the United Nations in accordance with their entitlements as laid down by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the various bodies. In so far as informal meetings were concerned, interpretation services would be provided in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243, section I, paragraph 8.

46. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) said that operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution C was ambiguous and lent itself to a variety of interpretations, thus it could lead to serious misunderstandings when it came to being implemented. Read in conjunction with paragraph 6, the paragraph could have legal and financial implications which should be clarified before the draft resolution was adopted. Accordingly, his delegation asked the Secretariat to submit, through the Controller, a statement of the draft resolution's programme budget implications indicating, inter alia, how the draft resolution would affect the provision of language services to the deliberating organs of the United Nations, the various Secretariat units and the publications of the Organization. He recalled that the provision of language services to the International Court of Justice was governed by its Statute, which was part of the Charter of the United Nations.

47. Mr. GOMEZ (Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, Controller) said that a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolutions contained in document A/C.5/42/L.4 would be submitted at the next meeting.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

48. Mr. KASTOFT (Denmark) said that small delegations, such as his own, were having difficulty meeting the tight schedule of meetings which the Committee had planned and asked that his remark be placed on record.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.