



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 37th 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 10.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 115 and 116: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989 and PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (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/42/512, 532 and 640; A/C.5/42/2/Rev.1)

First reading (continued)

Section 11 - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the estimate for section 11 was \$33,362,900. The Advisory Committee had recommended that the estimate should be reduced to \$32,135,900. Since the changes indicated in the update of the Secretary-General's progress report (A/C.5/42/2/Rev.1) did not concern section 11, the reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/42/7, table 1) had not been amended.

2. The Advisory Committee noted in paragraph 11.4 of its report that certain posts funded from operational projects had been included in the extrabudgetary staffing establishment. It noted that the methodology departed from that used for the other regional commissions and requested the Secretary-General to adopt the same method for all the commissions in future. It should also be noted (para. 11.6) that certain decisions adopted by ESCAP at its latest session had potential administrative and budgetary implications for the future. At the same session, ESCAP had approved its work programme for 1988-1989 and had been given an outline of the proposed medium-term plan for 1990-1995 (para. 11.7).

3. Mrs. SHERWOOD (United States of America) expressed the view that, despite some progress, the activities of ESCAP were still too diffuse. The Commission should try to concentrate its resources in areas where it played a vital role.

4. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination relating to section 11 (A/42/16 (Part I), paras. 123 to 125, and Add.1, para. 7).

5. It was so decided.

6. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision on section 11 as a whole.

7. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an appropriation of \$32,135,900 under section 11 for the biennium 1988-1989 was approved in first reading without a vote.

Section 16 - International Trade Centre

8. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the total proposed budget for the International Trade Centre was estimated at \$25,058,600. The United Nations and GATT would both provide \$12,274,800, the balance (\$509,000) being met from miscellaneous income. ITC was financed jointly by GATT and the United Nations and therefore the procedure followed for the Centre's expenditure estimates was slightly different from that in other sections of the budget. Explanations were given in paragraph 16.10 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/42/7) regarding the application of reductions related to the turnover rate of staff, consultant costs and travel.

9. The turnover rate for the budget as a whole had not been applied to section 16 because, in view of the particular funding situation of ITC and because of its very low vacancy rate, it would cause operational difficulties. Moreover, since the Centre did not employ consultants, the reduction provided for under that heading could not be applied to it. On the other hand, the Advisory Committee had considered that the 20-per-cent reduction in official travel of staff should be applied to the Centre. It had therefore recommended under that heading an overall reduction of \$64,000, the United Nations share being reduced by \$32,000. In the light of that reduction, the United Nations contribution to the budget of the Centre would be \$12,242,800.

10. Mr. GUPTA (India) asked why the 20-per-cent reduction in travel costs imposed by the Secretary-General had not been applied to the Centre. The recommendations of the Group of 18 had been applied very flexibly to programmes supported by extrabudgetary funds, and he wondered how far the Advisory Committee was able to impose cuts on the part of the Centre's budget which was financed by GATT.

11. Mr. RWAMBUYA (Programme Planning and Budget Division) explained that GATT generally fell into line with decisions taken by the United Nations, but the Secretary-General had thought it preferable not to foist his decision to reduce travel costs by 20 per cent upon GATT. The Centre, which had a very modest budget, had been extremely co-operative and had undertaken to do everything possible to save a comparable amount to that recommended by the United Nations: such a solution was, in its view, more satisfactory.

12. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), said that, under the terms of the agreement between the United Nations and GATT, the budget of the International Trade Centre was examined by the United Nations and by GATT. Under a long-established procedure, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee applied both to GATT and to the United Nations. In the case in point, the Advisory Committee had recommended to the General Assembly an appropriation of \$12,242,800 for the United Nations share of the Centre's expenditure, taking into account the reduction of \$32,000 for travel costs. It now rested with GATT to decide whether or not it would apply the reduction recommended by the Advisory Committee, it being understood that, if it refused, it would have to assume responsibility for an amount corresponding to the proposed reduction.

13. Mr. MAKTARI (Yemen), referring to paragraph 16.27 (programme element 2.3) of the narrative to section 16, asked why the Centre issued press releases only in English, French and Spanish. Since the Centre's activities were of extreme interest to developing countries, it was most surprising that the releases were not also issued in Arabic.

14. Mr. RWAMBUYA (Programme Planning and Budget Division) said he believed that press releases were produced in response to requests to the management of the Centre in Geneva from intergovernmental bodies.

15. Mr. MAKTARI (Yemen) said that his delegation could not take a position on section 16 until it had received detailed information.

16. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee would resume its consideration of section 6 when the Secretariat had provided more substantial information.

Section 12 - Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

17. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions) explained that the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his progress report (A/42/234) and the update of that report (A/C.5/42/2/Rev.1) did not apply to section 12. Accordingly, the Secretary-General's original estimate (\$40,486,800) and the corresponding recommendation of the Advisory Committee (\$39,458,400) remained as given in the Advisory Committee's report (A/42/7).

18. He drew attention to certain passages in that report. First, the venue of ECLAC's regular sessions had been a matter of debate for some time, in particular at the forty-first session in the Fifth Committee. As noted in paragraph 12.8 of the Advisory Committee's report, for the first time, provision (\$75,100) had been made for the rental and maintenance of premises at Santiago, which should allow the Commission to meet in that city. It should also be noted, in paragraph 12.9, that ECLAC had no interpreters and estimated a requirement of \$217,500 for temporary assistance for meetings. Lastly, paragraph 12.6 listed vacancies at ECLAC at the time when the Advisory Committee had been considering the Secretary-General's original estimates. It should be added that a number of redeployments were proposed, as indicated in the table in that paragraph.

19. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the conclusions and recommendations of CPC contained in paragraphs 129 to 132 of its report (A/42/16 (Part I)), which should be read in the light of paragraphs 8 to 10 of the statement of the programme budget implications arising from the CPC report (A/42/16 (Part I)/Add. 1).

20. Mr. FIGUEIRA (Brazil) recalled that, since consideration of the proposed programme budget had begun, his delegation had expressed concern at the situation of ECLAC. It greatly feared that the Commission would not be able to perform the tasks which it had been given. That was why the Secretariat must give formal assurances on three points which seemed to present special problems.

(Mr. Figueira, Brazil)

21. First, the vacancy rate in ECLAC was abnormal: according to data for October 1987, there were 56 vacant posts in the Professional category (or 29 per cent) and 22 vacancies in the General Service (or 5.5 per cent); the overall rate was 13.2 per cent. It was the first figure which caused him particular concern. With so many Professional posts unfilled, programme delivery was bound to suffer. It might well be asked, therefore, what should be done to remedy that situation and how the vacancy management scheme would be applied to the Commission.

22. Second, it was clear from paragraph 12.2 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/42/7) that 30 per cent of the resources required for ECLAC programmes would come from extrabudgetary sources. But such sources of funding were unpredictable. The same problem arose in connection with other regional commissions. Thus, the Secretary-General, in paragraph 23 of his report on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (A/42/674), stated that if available and expected resources were found to be insufficient, a renewed effort would have to be made by ECA to mobilize extrabudgetary resources. Should it be inferred from that that the Secretary-General intended to apply the same approach in the case of ECLAC? Such an expedient might be seen as a device for avoiding the implementation of planned programmes because counting on extrabudgetary financing for a given activity might mean a death sentence for that activity. His delegation would therefore like to have detailed information on how the Secretary-General intended to finance the activities which he had proposed.

23. Finally, in paragraph 131 of its report (A/42/16 (Part I)), CPC had expressed concern that certain programme elements had been adversely affected, adjusted and even terminated owing to the lack of regular budget resources. The United Nations was indeed in a critical situation and it could be assumed that the crisis was not just temporary. The Secretariat might care to comment on the views of CPC and describe its own position for the Fifth Committee.

24. Mr. ORTEGA-NALDA (Mexico) shared the concerns expressed by the representative of Brazil, particularly in regard to the implementation of ECLAC programmes. It was difficult to see how the Commission could carry out the task which had been entrusted to it if the number of its Professional staff had fallen by 29 per cent. Moreover, the vacancy situation had deteriorated very rapidly in only a few months. He would like to know why the situation had changed so suddenly.

25. In paragraph 12.6 of the proposed programme budget, it was stated that if, as in the past, the Commission should decide on a venue for its session other than Santiago, any additional requirements for certain objects of expenditure would be met from redeployments within that programme. There was however a well-established practice when United Nations organs met away from their regular headquarters. The Secretariat would probably wish to explain that departure from the standard rules and elucidate the relationship between the contents of paragraph 12.6 and the provisions of paragraph 4 (f) of General Assembly resolution 40/243 on the pattern of conferences, with particular reference to the sessions of ECLAC.

(Mr. Ortega-Nalda, Mexico)

26. In paragraph 12.8 of its report (A/42/7), the Advisory Committee had noted that, for the first time, provision had been made in the ECLAC budget for the rental and maintenance of other premises at Santiago. At its forty-first session, however, the General Assembly had made provision for the specific purpose of improving ECLAC office space in that city. The Mexican delegation would welcome an explanation on that point.

27. Mr. FONTAINE-ORTIZ (Cuba) said that, like previous speakers, he was as concerned at the situation in ECLAC. As everyone knew, staff costs represented 80 per cent of the budget of the United Nations system. Thus, there was a very close relationship between the activities of the organizations and their staffing table. ECLAC had a vacancy rate of 28.87 per cent in the Professional category, the highest of all United Nations departments or agencies. Since March, the rate had increased by 23 per cent. That was an extraordinary phenomenon, which was a cause of great concern.

28. No doubt the vacancy situation could be explained by the recruitment freeze, which was an emergency measure. In other words, there was attrition in ECLAC owing to the non-replacement of staff on a scale that clearly exceeded reasonable standards. In its recommendation 15, the Group of 18 had only recommended a 15-per-cent staff reduction. His delegation therefore would like to know how that recommendation had been applied in the specific case of ECLAC.

29. Like earlier speakers, his delegation had noted that CPC had expressed concern in paragraph 131 of its report (A/42/16 (Part I)) regarding the abandonment or reduction of programmes for lack of resources. That concern was equally valid for the future and he would like to know the views of the Secretary-General on the extent to which the ECLAC programme of activities would be affected in future by declining resources.

30. Finally, before expressing its views on accommodation and construction, his delegation would like to receive the latest information on the situation and be informed of what had come of the resolutions previously adopted by the General Assembly in that connection.

31. Mr. LOPEZ (Venezuela) noted that other Delegations had expressed concern at the situation of ECLAC. With regard to staffing, the Professional vacancy rate had apparently increased fivefold in a few months. His delegation would very much like to know the reasons for the abrupt change. Since the Commission would obviously be affected by such a massive reduction in staff, his delegation would also like to know the extent to which its administrative effectiveness had been diminished. As to accommodation in Santiago, it looked forward with interest to the information requested from the Secretariat.

32. Mr. TETTAMANTI (Argentina) agreed with the comments of those who had spoken before him and added that ECLAC seemed to be a special case as it was the only agency regarding which CPC had expressed concern and which had such a high vacancy rate. In his view, the latter phenomenon had reached the excessive point.

(Mr. Tettamanti, Argentina)

33. In paragraph 12.8 of its report, the Advisory Committee had pointed out that for the first time provision was being made for the rental and maintenance of premises in Santiago. It should be borne in mind that ECLAC was the only regional commission which met every two years. Since Santiago did not have adequate facilities to host its sessions, it was customary for the Commission to meet elsewhere, in better equipped cities. In addition, as noted in paragraph 12.9 of the report, ECLAC had no interpreters, translators and typists to service its sessions. Whatever position might be taken regarding the Secretary-General's budget estimates, such considerations must be borne in mind.

34. Mr. MONTHE (Cameroon) invited the Committee to extend to all the United Nations regional commissions the thinking it applied in the case of ECLAC. Apparently the regional commissions were becoming so poor that they might fail to accomplish the mission the General Assembly intended for them in its resolution 32/197. In paragraph 19 of the annex to that resolution, the General Assembly viewed the regional commissions as the "main general economic and social development centres". The activities projected in the proposed programme budget were far from meeting that goal.

35. The delegations of the Latin American countries that had spoken on section 12 had only reflected the concerns of CPC. The Secretariat could be expected to reply that the vacancy problem antedated the crisis and had not, therefore, been caused by the implementation of recommendation 15 of the Group of 18. One might counter by pointing out that the vacancy rate in the regional commissions had not previously ranged from 20 to 30 per cent. The Secretary-General's initiatives had only aggravated the situation, undoubtedly because of their excessive rigidity. There were probably still other reasons that the Secretariat would certainly explain.

36. Another aspect of General Assembly resolution 32/197 seemed to have been overlooked in the proposed programme budget under consideration, namely, decentralization. The trend seemed, rather, to be in the opposite direction, and unless care was taken, the regional commissions would lose all dynamism. As CPC had said, the Secretary-General should remedy that situation. In any case, the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields would be dealing with the problem of the reorganization of the regional commissions in the light of the recommendations of the Group of 18. The question of the use or non-use of resources became wholly relevant only when restored to that context.

37. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the figure of \$17 million given for the extrabudgetary funds was only an estimate; it represented a decrease only in comparison with the amount that had been estimated for 1986-1987. The amount actually received for that biennium would be known more precisely when the Secretary-General presented his programme budget performance report. As in the past, the Secretariat would make every effort to mobilize the expected funds.

(Mr. Baudot)

38. It was hard to measure the impact on programmes of the decline in extrabudgetary financing because the current budget format did not provide a clear picture of the relative share of regular budget appropriations and extrabudgetary funds in the financing of programme elements and outputs. The problem was not only technical but also political. It also raised the question of priorities. In principle, the budget served first of all to finance priority activities. The Secretariat would redeploy budgetary resources to such activities if extrabudgetary resources proved inadequate. When it had reviewed the section relating to ECLAC, CPC had noted that the crisis had prevented the completion of a certain number of activities. The Secretariat did not deny that, but stressed that it was very difficult to define exactly the correlation between the reduction of resources and the non-implementation of programmes, given the number of factors involved.

39. On the subject of ECLAC accommodation, he recalled that appropriations had been approved for building maintenance and the repair of damage caused by the earthquake a few years earlier. Some operations had been completed but others had been complicated by soil conditions. The Secretariat proposed to put the matter before the Advisory Committee when it submitted its programme budget performance report for the biennium 1986-1987.

40. The proposal in paragraphs 12.6 and 12.10 (redeployment of resources to finance additional expenses arising from the holding of sessions away from Santiago) was interesting in that it would avoid the need to request additional appropriations for each session. It had been approved by ECLAC and by the Economic and Social Council. He recalled in that connection that the Commission, unlike other bodies, had agreed to meet only every other year.

41. Mr. FONTAINE-ORTIZ (Cuba) said he was convinced that ECLAC had not been subject to discriminatory treatment. Nevertheless, the mechanical application of economy measures, especially the freeze, had only accentuated the existing inequalities. The explanation just given by the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division was hardly convincing. Inasmuch as the vacancy rate in ECLAC had increased by 24 per cent in comparison with 1986, it was clear that the freeze had played a decisive role. Figures such as 45 per cent for Port of Spain and 35 per cent for Mexico City called for immediate action by the Secretariat. In order to understand the situation better, his delegation would like the Secretariat to prepare a comparative table showing the ratio of permanent to fixed-term contracts for each section of the budget.

42. He also wondered why the Secretary-General had confronted the Advisory Committee with problems arising from certain repairs. Was it because supplementary appropriations were needed? If so, what would the amount be? Lastly, unless he was mistaken, only a partial answer had been given to the question asked by the representative of Mexico concerning the last sentence of paragraph 12.7 in the Advisory Committee's report. Exactly what did that sentence mean and, since the budget was already very tight, where would the resources to be redeployed come from in case of need?

43. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) explained to the representative of Ecuador that the subprogramme entitled "Ocean resources" had not been modified in substance. There was only a change of terminology.

44. He stressed that he had not intended to justify the vacancy rate but to explain it. The Secretariat had always had a policy of correcting irregularities. The ratio of permanent to fixed-term contracts certainly did not play a decisive role, but he would provide the statistics requested by the representative of Cuba, at least for ECLAC. Finally, he would reply at the following meeting to the question relating to the last sentence in paragraph 12.7 of the Advisory Committee's report .

45. Mr. TETTAMANTI (Argentina) felt that Mr. Baudot's suggestion that the vacancy rate should be reduced did not go far enough. It was not enough to apply recommendation 15 of the Group of 18 flexibly, i.e., to make a few exceptions to the principle of a 15 per cent staff reduction. The case in question required a more comprehensive approach.

46. Mr. FONTAINE-ORTIZ (Cuba) said he hoped that at the following meeting an explanation would also be given as to why the Advisory Committee had to be consulted about certain construction projects. In addition, in order to make a comparative study of the ratio of permanent to fixed-term contracts, statistics would have to be made available if not for all sections of the budget at least for some, and not just for ECLAC.

47. Mrs. CUCALON (Colombia), Mr. BAZAN (Chile) and Mr. GOMEZ (Nicaragua) expressed great concern over the vacancy rate in ECLAC, stressing that the situation was harmful to the satisfactory conduct of the Commission's activities. They also asked for explanations.

48. Mr. SALAZAR (Ecuador) agreed with the previous speakers. He asked the Committee to take note of the fact that in September 1986 a seminar had taken place in Cartagena, Colombia, under the auspices of ECLAC and in co-operation with UNEP, the United Nations and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific on the subject of the mineral resources of the sea-bed and the technical, legal and ecological aspects of prospecting for and mining such resources. That seminar had highlighted the important functions of ECLAC in international co-operation in the exploitation of marine resources. On behalf of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, of which Colombia, Chile, Peru and Ecuador were members, his delegation asked ECLAC to include, in its work programme for 1988-1989, an item concerning marine resources within the framework of its programme on natural resources.

49. Mr. BAUDOT (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the regional commissions were experiencing their own problems, which nevertheless reflected the problems facing the Organization as a whole, particularly in relation to development. The work of ECLAC in that area was essential, and the Secretary-General wanted to continue it.

(Mr. Baudot)

50. It was true that the vacancy rate at ECLAC was nearly 30 per cent for Professional staff, but it should be noted that the rate for locally recruited staff was only 6.5 per cent, which was not excessive. However it was clear that a vacancy rate of 30 per cent was unacceptable and held up the implementation of programmes which had not been formulated or proposed on the basis of such a rate.

51. There were many reasons for that situation, including staff rotation, demographic factors and the recruitment freeze. In any event, ECLAC had not been given different treatment by the Secretary-General. As to the means of reducing that rate, he had nothing to add to what the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management had said at a previous meeting, except that every effort would be made to reduce the vacancy rate.

52. He drew attention to the recommendation contained in paragraph 131 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination that the Secretary-General should take the impact of vacancies on programme implementation into account when considering further economy measures. Moreover, if the General Assembly so desired, it could request the Secretary-General to implement recommendation 15 of the Group of 18 flexibly, or, in the case of ECLAC, to reduce staff by less than 15 per cent.

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/42/L.26, L.27, L.29, L.30 and L.31 concerning agenda item 33 (Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa) (A/C.5/42/41)

53. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that in his statement in document A/C.5/42/41 the Secretary-General presented the programme budget implications of five draft resolutions on the policy of apartheid of the Government of South Africa. The financial implications of the five draft resolutions were estimated to be \$1,165,200. Of that amount, conference-servicing costs were estimated at \$69,700.

54. As indicated in paragraph 21 and annex II of the document, that estimate was for the cost of conference services for the meetings to be held in 1988 by the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa. In that context, the Secretary-General's representatives had informed the Advisory Committee that the estimated amount had been determined on the assumption that the Intergovernmental Group would hold the equivalent of a maximum of four one-day sessions, at Headquarters. The Advisory Committee noted that, for the reasons explained in paragraph 25, the Secretary-General planned to finance the conference-servicing requirements on a full-cost basis through an appropriation to be approved by the General Assembly at the current session under section 29. Total resource requirements for 1988 apart from conference services were estimated to be \$1,095,500, a breakdown of which was given in the table in paragraph 22 of the statement.

55. A more detailed description of the proposed activities appeared in the relevant paragraphs of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 1988-1989. The programme budget references for those activities were given in

(Mr. Mælle)

paragraphs 7, 11, 15 and 17 of the statement. The estimate of \$1,095,500 took into account savings from the application of expenditure experience over the past three bienniums. The amount included a sum of \$290,200 for grants to national liberation movements and a special allocation of \$390,000 for the special projects of the Special Committee against Apartheid. The Advisory Committee had been informed, at its request, that the total estimate of \$1,095,500 was related to the estimates in sections 3A.3 and 3D of the proposed programme budget.

56. However, the resources needed for information activities connected with the programme of work of the Special Committee against Apartheid had not been separately identified and evaluated for the purposes of the statement. The Advisory Committee had been informed that some elements in the programme of work of the Special Committee against Apartheid had already been taken into account in section 27.

57. With regard to the other non-programmed elements, it was the Secretary-General's intention to finance additional requirements out of the total appropriation under section 27. The Advisory Committee noted that on that basis, and for the reasons explained in paragraphs 3, 4 and 24 of the statement, it was the Secretary-General's intention to finance expenditures apart from conference services from appropriations to be approved by the Assembly at the current session under sections 3 and 27. The Advisory Committee had no objection.

58. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the five draft resolutions, no additional appropriation would be required over and above those already requested under sections 3, 27 and 29 of the proposed programme budget for 1988-1989.

59. Mr. HARAN (Israel) drew attention to the table in paragraph 22 of document A/C.5/42/41 and observed that the Secretary-General anticipated that actual expenses of the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa would account for 70 per cent of the full cost of activities. He wondered whether that calculation, which was based on the past experience of the Special Committee against Apartheid and other bodies engaged in activities against apartheid, was justified. The Intergovernmental Group was in its first year of operation and had specifically requested additional resources to expand its activities. He asked the Secretariat to provide more information on that subject.

60. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said he was not satisfied with the information provided in document A/C.5/42/41, which contained almost no financial or budgetary data to support the request for appropriations for national liberation movements and special projects of the Special Committee against Apartheid. His delegation was opposed to the funding of national liberation movements by the United Nations and to the emphasis placed on ties between Israel and South Africa. Furthermore, with regard to the special allocation for special projects of the Special Committee, he did not believe that the General Assembly should be asked to fund projects of an unspecified nature.

61. Mr. DUVAL (Programme Planning and Budget Division), referring to the adjustment applied to the full cost of activities of the Intergovernmental Group, said that the Secretariat had applied the same rate it had applied to activities of the Special Committee against Apartheid, on the understanding that the allocations for the Intergovernmental Group would be administered not separately, but jointly with those for the Special Committee under section 3 of the budget.

62. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolutions A/42/L.26, L.27, L.29, L.30 and L.31, no modification of the programme of work for 1988-1989 contained in the proposed programme budget for that biennium and no additional appropriations over and above those already requested under sections 3, 27 and 29 of the proposed programme budget would be required.

63. It was so decided.

64. Mr. HARAN (Israel), explaining his delegation's position after the decision, said that the way the United Nations handled the question of apartheid was a blatant example of the bias inherent in many of its activities. Relations between South Africa and many countries were well known, yet the General Assembly found it appropriate to single out one specific country as the subject of a resolution on its relations with South Africa, as though those relations could have any impact on the situation. If the decision that had just been taken had been put to a vote, his delegation would have voted against it.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.